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# MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CASES;

SELECTED

DURING A PRACTICE OF THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS.

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BY EDWARD SUTLEFFE,

QUEEN STREET, LONDON.

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"In every work regard the writer's end."

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# MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CASES.

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE UTILITY OF THE GLECOMA HEDERACEA, HEDERA SYLVESTRIS, OR GROUND IVY, IN THE TREATMENT OF MANIA.

THE medical qualities of Ground Ivy are not, I believe, sufficiently known to the medical profession ; for although an old and still a popular remedy, it is not admitted into our Pharmacopœia. I have employed it for more than twenty years in cases of mental aberration, especially in melancholia, with the most advantageous results, and I am therefore disposed to think that it is a highly valuable remedy. It appears to act as a direct sedative. When its operation is salutary, it tranquillizes the patient ; and when no organic disease is present, while the affection seems to depend on some incidental or temporary cause of excitement, I am not often disappointed in my expectations of a favourable termination of the malady under its use.

The mode in which I have generally directed it to be employed, is, a wine-glass full of the fresh expressed juice twice or thrice a-day: in cases in which this could not be procured, I have ordered a proportionate quantity of the extract: but my observations have not led me to repose so full a degree of confidence in the latter as in the former preparation of the plant.

In mania, where the high arterial excitement requires local reduction, I have found it, conjoined with abstraction of blood, generally lead the disease to a favourable issue. In some cases it has not, however, been productive of any benefit. In such instances, I suspect, there has been organic disease.

My object in making the preceding brief observations, is to draw the attention of other practitioners to this remedy, and to extend, beyond the circle of my own private practice, the benefits that may be derived from it.

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When I invited the attention of the medical world by introducing this herbaceous tranquillizer to their notice in No. 247 of the London Medical and Physicall Journal, I was asked by what means I became acquainted with its efficacy? I replied, that about the commencement of my practice, a young lady, just entered into "bonds which are honour-

able in all," became suddenly incoherent, and, finally, a raving maniac. The amiable parties, on each side, were absorbed in dutiful and persevering attention. Dr. Monro's well-known skill was exercised for several months in vain. All the routine of medical measures made not the slightest impression: rural and marine scenery were equally inefficacious. It was hoped by us all that death would close the scene, as the patient, so long as she was sane, had her mind seriously imbued with Christian principles;—but God is wiser than man. It was at this period that the juice of ground ivy was extra-professionally proposed. Upon being consulted, which appeared to be a necessary preliminary, I felt quite disposed to gratify the anxious circle, upon the principle of withholding the use of no means of relief which might be presented to our view. This medicine became now our sheet anchor; for though, upon forcing down the first wine-glassful, no impression was made, yet the second dose being taken with less reluctance, operated slightly in procuring sleep; and the third secured some hours of sound repose. A continuation of a daily dose for eight or ten more periods, was ultimately successful in freeing my patient from all maniacal or even incoherent symptoms. A gradual recognition of the parties was permitted, and for fifteen years there never appeared the slightest degree of aberration. Happily she never became preg-



nant. But the husband, not content with ten thousand pounds, and hoping to increase that sum four-fold, (*aut Cæsar, aut nullus !*) engaged in very extensive speculations, which not succeeding, served as an unfortunate occasion to renew the wife's incoherency, though there was no accompanying furor. Now the medicine ceased to have any beneficial influence. As I suspect, from post mortem examinations in other instances, there existed an enlarged state of the cerebral vessels, which produced a constant impetus of blood, owing to an increased calibre, quite incompatible with correct ratiocination, and over which we can, most obviously, possess no control. My patient was always harmless, and generally an excellent companion, frequently entertaining us with what she called her former frolics.

From the number of cases now pouring in upon me, I soon had an opportunity of judging and appreciating the real merit of this herb. Flushed with success, I thought of directing my attention to this class of sufferers only; until a few unsuccessful cases checked my confidence.

About this time I had an urgent message to attend the Duchess of Chandos, who had been *non compos*, from the deplored death of the Duke, her husband, (so very happily some great people live!) but whose insane intervals were only discoverable when she was contradicted.

During this period also, our late beloved King



George III., of scripturally pious and blessed memory, laboured under a paroxysm which required the constant attendance of the late Dr. Reynolds, of Bedford-square. I took the liberty of calling upon him, so sanguine and patriotic were my feelings. I mentioned it also at a subsequent period to Dr. Simmonds, of Poland-street, with whom I had a long discussion upon the nature and treatment of maniacal patients; the late King being under his care at that time. Mr. Cline, on that occasion, gave me his advice with his accustomed urbanity.

Mr. C., a gentleman of fortune, possessing every facility for sensual gratification, but forgetting to associate the "*Dulce domum et placens uxor*," necessarily became subject to ennui: and, to remedy a dull monotony, at last sought relief in the varied gaieties of Protei-form Paris, but in vain. On his return to town, he took the extract in the form of pills; and the impression upon his mind was such, that he wrote me, requesting I would send him, by the bearer, "a box of the incomparable restoratives."

Miss, —, of Cheapside, a very accomplished young lady, being used most treacherously by a wretch of a lover, was seized in consequence by hysteria, sleepless nights, and a slight degree of aberration. For the relief of these distressing and alarming symptoms, no palliative was found so successful as the extract. So recently as last

month she expressed a wish that I would not leave her destitute of her composing pills. My inquiry was, whether the relief was imaginary or real? Oh! she added, I sleep so well, and awake so refreshed, that I cannot do without them.

*Post Mortem Examination of a Maniac.*

Miss Jane O——, of Basinghall-street, about ten years ago was considerably agitated respecting the accomplishment of an union by marriage. The sudden demise, by apoplexy, of a wealthy friend, who took a very lively interest in her welfare, led to the realization of the wished-for event; but, owing to her delicate temperament and nervous irritability, symptoms of incongruity soon began to be developed; and, subsequently, decided aberration was produced. This is not the first case of the kind I have met with; but here we had a complete triumph over the mental eclipse, by the extract of the glecoma hederacea, and the expressed juice of that herb. From this period to a recent date I lost sight of the parties, owing to an altercation with the bridegroom; and as I did not choose to compromise the honour of the profession, I was under the necessity of satisfying myself by inquiry, and I had the pleasure to learn that there existed no marks of the disease, except that her vivacity was exchanged for taciturnity and love of retirement.

The husband was misanthropical, and died re-

cently. This event had an instant effect upon the brain of the lady, for the relief of which I was again requested to attend her; but we had now the mortification to observe, that although during the few first days there did appear ground to augur favourably of the case, there was too soon indubitable proof that the glecoma, for which I have so strong a predilection, possessed no potency towards her relief. Although the usual routine of remedial measures was resorted to, with the superadded aid of marine and rural scenery, the most kind and Christian attentions that could possibly be rendered on her behalf, (of which I am a most willing witness) yet having become extremely emaciated, she gradually sunk, and calmly expired in Christian hope.

Messrs. Comson and Wheeler were so obliging as to render their important and accurate aid in investigating the condition of the brain sixteen hours after death. Upon exposing the brain to view, we were all surprised at the prodigious quantity of blood with which all the vessels were loaded, internally as well as externally. The circumstance reminded Mr. C. of some of the cases of typhus which he had inspected with Dr. Clutterbuck, that indefatigable physician, to whom we lie under incalculable obligations. The calibre of the internal carotids was in a twofold degree more capacious than usual, and upon cutting into them, presented minute particles of osseous matter,

pretty thickly studded. We thence concluded that the brain had been under the necessity of receiving a greater quantity of blood continually propelled by the heart than was compatible with the healthy function of that important organ ; and I was somewhat gratified in being borne out with the remark, that when the glecoma hederacea fails of making a salutary impression, it is reasonable to calculate upon the existence of organic disease, which in this instance would indubitably have rendered inert every means of cure, however persevered in.

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I cannot call to mind an individual case of mania where the glecoma hederacea has had full trial, without effect, and eventually, recovery.

Mr. H——, of the Custom House, in his maniacal calamity, was placed under the care of Dr. Munro, at Northampton House. The symptoms exhibited a most curious conceit, as he supposed that he was not in this world, but an inhabitant of the world of spirits. It was not possible to preserve risible muscles sober ; though it would have been a suitable correction for our levities, if the patient had remonstrated against us. After this facetious gentleman, however (such is the happiness sometimes associated with madness) had taken the expressed juice of the glecoma for a fortnight, he returned to the Custom House perfectly competent to all the duties in his depart-



ment ; and remains so, as far as I know, to the present hour.

Mrs. B——, the wife of a builder, in Finsbury, was an inmate at St. Luke's, where she remained a considerable time amongst the worst of incurables. The husband by some means had gained information of the success which I had met with in mania, and suggested to the master and mistress of that establishment the proposal of trying the glecoma. They rejected the idea most indignantly, and bitter altercation followed : in which they almost charged the obstinate husband with the disease of his wife, who had been long under the constant attentions of Dr. Simmonds ; adding, that she would be refused admission at any future period. Mr. B—— was *insane* enough, however, to remove her, and I attended her at Hoxton. During my visits (thrice in a week) I was at first almost discouraged. The furor of the maniac was more than human : the language of blasphemy and indecency, directed my thoughts to the abodes of misery beneath. I even seemed to hear her ravings for some time after I had quitted the apartment. We insisted upon her swallowing the expressed juice of the glecoma, and in six weeks (the longest period I ever endured the trial with any patient) she returned to her residence in Finsbury, became both a steady wife and a careful mother ; and, as far as I ever heard, has had no relapse.

Thomas O——, my old tonsor, owing to domestic calamity, laboured under muscular tremblings, and sleepless nights. The razor passing over my face excited some unpleasant feelings; my heart upbraided me, that nothing less than a regard to self was sufficient to arouse me from this criminal torpor. I supplied him with six pills made with the extract, two to be taken on going to bed; and by the time the whole were exhausted, he resumed his accustomed garrulity, and again became the bearer of general intelligence regarding the parochial district.

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“And herbs of the mountains are gathered.”—Prov. xxvii. 25.

“And herb for the service of man.”—Psalm civ. 14.

“With herbs for man of various power,  
To nourish nature, or to cure.”—WATTS.

Who shall presume distinctly to draw the line of demarcation between highly nervous hypochondriasis, and an incipient degree of diseased aberration?

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#### HYDROCEPHALUS.

In the incipient stage of Hydrocephalus, I have found the application of leeches to the temples, repeated according to the vigour of the pulse

and the effects upon the infantile patient, of the greatest advantage.

I am ready to express my obligation on this point to Dr. Clutterbuck, of high and well-deserved renown, to whose extraordinary abilities and perseverance the social circle is exceedingly indebted in general and the medical world in particular, and “with whose labours (as a metropolitan practitioner of no mean note observes) we may commence a date of infinite importance to posterity.” But I cannot avoid reflecting with poignant and un-availing regret over the multitude of cases that occasionally obtrude themselves upon my mind’s eye, the subjects of which apparently sunk prematurely into the grave, while the professors of the healing art taught us to wait quietly, and (although not intending it) permitted us to gaze for fourteen successive days upon the work of destruction accomplished by a fatal disease! It adds to the bitterness of this reflection, that I lost a fine girl of my own, for whom, while labouring under incipient hydrocephalus, I requested the opinion of a highly celebrated physician, who considered my fears not well grounded; and we were thus prevented from using those means which I have found so decidedly useful in many cases subsequent to that period.

I still feel it a duty I owe to society (notwithstanding the opinion entertained by Dr. O. Porter, of Bath, for whose talents I profess the highest

esteem) to declare my preference of the application of leeches to the temples. We have, indeed, some intimation of the means of cure from the little patient's hands, which will intuitively find their way to those portions of the head that are in pain.

I presume the anastomosing branches have a ready communication with the distended and inflamed vessels internally; and from my increasing conviction, derived from growing experience, I still hope to prosecute that sanatory evacuation as often as the circumstances require.

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#### ON THE PREVENTION OF HYDROPHOBIA.

Mr. Cline, sen. in his lectures in the years 1790, 1791, and 1792, was accustomed to observe, that the period from the infliction of the injury to the usual hydrophobic symptoms extends for the most part to six weeks; allowing the parties an opportunity for the preventive use of excision, or caustic, during that space of time. I have used the latter in five or six cases, and hitherto with complete success; although, it is probable, that hydrophobia would not have resulted from the wounds in all the cases; for, as Mr. Cline used to observe, the inoculating virus may be wiped off by the external clothing, prior to the insertion of the diseased tooth; or it might be washed away



after real insertion, by the effusion of blood from the wounds. On this account, apprehended cases of prevention may be falsely reported as arising from the use of the Ormskirk powders, sea bathing, &c.

I well remember Mr. (now Sir Everard) Home's showing me, nearly thirty years ago, at Mr. Hunter's, the ill effects of the partial use of the lunar caustic, when it had not been pushed fully up to the extent of the inflicted wounds. The consequence was the death of the patient.

A few years ago, we had a girl in Bartholomew's Hospital, who had been extensively bitten on the cheek by a rabid animal. Excision was not, of course, performed; but why the caustic was neglected, (and I fear improperly so,) I could not learn. The scene, prior to dissolution, in that case, exceeded all description. Venesection was employed, but without the smallest advantage.

Now, with these truths before me, of which the medical world has so long been in possession, I was exceedingly surprised to read some time since, in the public papers, that "a most eminent physician, at the west end of the town, urged, for a greater security, the alarmed patient to be bathed in the sea." I should not have given this communication, but for the above statement; and I cannot help expressing my extreme regret that the great luminaries in the medical horizon (in the

present æra of knowledge and augmented perfection in the healing art,) should lend their sanction to the use of means so completely inert and nugatory, at the same time suggesting to them the expediency of borrowing somewhat of the lesser lights.

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Since I engrossed a page upon this subject in the London Medical Repository, I have had an additional opportunity of appealing, as to the treatment I have recommended, to very high authority, of which the medical world do not appear to possess sufficient information; at least, if we should judge from the diversity of remedial measures, both external and internal, to which practitioners occasionally resort.

A rabid animal found his way into the parsonage grounds, at Lambourn, in Norfolk, and inoculated one of the reverend Rector's dogs, which being caressed subsequent to the infliction of the injury, the parties, full of fear, hastened to my house, whom I conveyed instanter to Sir A. Cooper. Upon an interview with this useful character, we reverted to the former views of Mr. Cline, whose contempt for all remedies except the caustic were public in 1790, and in which the Baronet concurred in toto; observing, that, as to other measures, " 'Tis all nonsense." The caustic was used, and no unpleasant symptom has ensued after the expiration of twenty months. Sir A. Cooper's

very polite refusal of a fee was much heightened by the observation, that his father was a Norfolk clergyman!

To what can it be attributed, that a clerical character recently compelled his two daughters to eat the fried liver of the rabid animal by whom they had been previously bitten? Physicians of the highest rank for science and practice recommend sea bathing, as adding some security against hydrophobic symptoms, and cause it to be persevered in almost to suffocation. Now it is obvious that none of these remedies can operate where the inoculating tooth has not penetrated the skin before the fatal poison has adhered to the surrounding garments previously; or, if actually inserted, the flowing blood succeeding may have washed out the latent and subtle mischief. In either case, no means can be available, because none are requisite; but if the hydrophobic poison be deposited, woe be to that human being whose reliance is placed in any thing short of excision or caustic!

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Case of a girl, ætatis twelve, who was bitten by a rabid dog, in an inland county. Related by an eye-witness, (Mr. John Mann) August 1823. The animal suddenly and most unexpectedly seized the girl by the arm, and made an extensive laceration. Two months subsequent to the infliction of the

injury, symptoms arose to create alarm. No clothes interposed to furnish a belief that the poison might be wiped off from the inoculating tooth, prior to its entrance into the living flesh; but the effused flow of blood, subsequently, did sanction a hope that the latent poison had not taken up a permanent abode. The sequel proved the contrary: on the second day caustic was applied, but did not sufficiently penetrate, as Sir E. Home showed in another instance, upon the back of the hand. Uneasiness of the bitten part was first developed, which is not always to be depended on. Inflammation and difficulty of deglutition followed. The usual antipathy to fluids was not in this case discernible. Extract Belladonæ, gr. j. and Enemata Ol: Terebinth: were the chief means employed, and she died the day following the commencement of the symptoms. I presume there was a persuasion that the flow of blood washed away every vestige of the hydrophobic poison, or the caustic would have been more minutely applied; but the case being lost, leads to an inquiry how far the prophylactic means had been sufficiently put in force. Dr. Walshman most judiciously recommends the selection of the concentrated sulphuric acid, as calculated to afford the best prophylactic by its escharotic and penetrating quality, but it should be applied as speedily as possible upon the infliction of the injury.—See the Doctor's publication on this subject.



## PERITONITIS.

Mrs. G——, of Goswell Street, was confined with her third child. The disease announced itself by a severe rigour, accompanied by unceasing pain about the whole of the abdominal region. Upon my arrival I abstracted a considerable quantity of blood; this measure afforded great relief, which was apparent during the flow of the blood. A recurrence of the pain took place two days afterwards, when I again employed the lancet. The second bleeding did not exhibit the blood so much buffed and cupped as in the former venesection; affording us a hope that the progress of the inflammation had been arrested. The sequel was perfectly satisfactory.

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Mrs. R——, of Thames street, a few days after being delivered of her second child, was suddenly seized with a very severe rigour, and pain in the abdominal region. Being immediately summoned, I waited till the rigour had ceased; then finding the pulse rising, and, as it were, inviting the lancet, I took away a large bason full of blood: instantaneous relief was the effect. On the next day, my patient, smiling, said, "I have no pain now, Sir." A view of the blood drawn, which put on the appearance of goose grease, exhibited at once the

nature of the complaint, and the propriety of the treatment.

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Mrs. S—, of Whitechapel, on the fourth day subsequent to the delivery of her first child, was attacked with rigours, ardent fever, and increasing pain in the abdomen. The lancet, with every other antiphlogistic appendage, relieved her rapidly and permanently.

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*Fatal Case.* Mrs. H—, of Bishopsgate-street, some few years since passed through her accouchement with her ninth child, unattended by any unusual occurrence. Milk fever commenced, and was supervened by the puerperal fever. On some occasions our medical resources appear to rescue the patient instantly; on others, the very identical means place all parties in so embarrassing a situation as to excite the fear whether an augmented stage of disease has not been thereby promoted. The well-earned renown of Dr. John Sims led her friends in this case to request his skill, and he rendered her unceasing attention; but we had only the mortification to witness deeper advances towards despondency. Such however was the sympathy of her relatives and religious friends, that in the midst of all the painful forebodings (which were finally realized), the scene partook not of “the house of mourning,” but might rather be thought a little epitome of the abode of bliss.

During this suspense, being requested to pass my opinion in the presence of a large circle, I could only reply, that in reference to the laws of the obstetric art, the case afforded no hope whatever; but that as it was attended by some peculiarities, and we had moreover committed it to Him with whom all things are possible, our duty was equally to avoid an undue hope or an extravagant despair. The mystery was developed immediately on her decease.

Fraught with instruction in its progressive stages, this case may be said to have been singularly honoured in its termination; for the children of the deceased came forth with one consent to join themselves in a perpetual covenant to the Lord and his church, where they now shine as polished pillars in the temple of truth and grace.

Saints, at your heavenly Father's word,  
Give up your comforts to the Lord;  
He shall restore what you resign,  
Or grant you blessings more divine.—WATTS.

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Mrs. W——, of Watling-street, was delivered without any extraordinary occurrence, except a morbid adhesion of the placenta; and to have removed it in the customary manner would have been as impracticable as the separation, by the same means, of the finger from the hand; but, by dint of perseverance, about five-eighths of it were

detached piecemeal. Fever and sanious lochia quickly supervened. Dr. Haighton rendered his valuable assistance, but in vain : my patient expired in a few weeks subsequent to delivery.

I feel confident that the violent separation of the placenta, though needful, serves often as an occasion to the formation of insidious peritonitis.

I once postponed its removal till the following day, and no ill effects resulted ; but I believe the prevailing practice amongst obstetric professors, of removing it prior to quitting the habitation, is best.

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Mrs. L——, advanced in life, and exceedingly encumbered with obesity, solicited my attendance with her first child. The labour, though protracted, was effected as usual by the uterine efforts, and was precisely what Dr. John Clarke, in 1791, denominated a case of impaction. Nothing particular occurred subsequent to this period, except the pulse, which was as rapid as 140. Two days after, the patient was seized with rigour, fever, and abdominal pain. Upon my arrival, I endeavoured to abstract blood from several orifices, but in vain : no blood would flow. Thirty leeches were put upon the part in pain, which gave immediate relief. Warm clysters were repeatedly introduced, and, determined nothing should be left undone which could contribute towards my patient's recovery, I devoted a whole day to her.



Calomel and Pulv. Antimon. were freely given, and by the evening all painful symptoms were so much reduced, that I felt myself at liberty to turn my attention to other objects. The pulse, however, continued rapid as before, so that I could not pronounce her out of danger. In two days afterwards the abdominal pains returned with increased violence, and bade defiance to all remedial measures. On the sixth day from the delivery she expired.

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A few weeks subsequent to this event, Mrs. B. of Goswell-street, a little delicate lady, with an early labour, was delivered of her third child. Four days after, I was quickly summoned, and found the pulse full and bounding, fever, abdominal pain, &c. I immediately detracted several ounces of blood, and ordered fomentations; Ext. Colocynth. c. Calomel, &c. The blood was buffed and cupped. Relief was apparently complete; but at the expiration of a short period, the same process of venesection, &c. had to be resorted to, and finally with success. Such is the gratitude of Mrs. G——, that she considers her protracted existence owing to the measures to which we had recourse.

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Mrs. W——, of Leadenhall-street, ætatis thirty-five, was confined with her sixth child. The ex-

pulsion of the child was so rapid, that assistance could not be procured in time. A morbid adhesion opposed considerable difficulty in removing the placenta, which was attended with great hemorrhage. The countenance was exsanguineous, the pulse feeble, with pains in the head; and on the following day considerable foetid discharge *ex utero*, supervened by furred tongue, restlessness, &c. Various opinions were consulted, and some hope entertained of her recovery, but associated with many fears. There was no tenderness nor tumefaction about the region of the abdomen. Finally, however, she expired, in calm expectation of future blessedness, saying, "By to-morrow I shall wear my best robe," meaning the righteousness of Christ; intreating her widowed spouse to be a man of double prayer (to watch and pray), and so to rear up the children, that if any of them come short of heaven, he might not have to reproach himself of being accessory to that solemn disappointment.

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Mrs. M——, of Newington, had a very protracted labour with her first child, the placenta adhering so considerably as not to be satisfactorily removed until uncommon patience had been exercised, and almost exhausted. In consequence of a profuse uterine hemorrhage, Dr. Haighton was called in, who urged the necessity of irritating the interior

surface of the womb, with the view of promoting contraction; this being accomplished, there soon supervened symptoms of puerperal fever, with a cessation of the lochial discharges. Dr. H. requested the aid of Dr. Babington, and they conjointly ordered the application of twelve leeches, fomentations, and the usual antiphlogistic regimen. We had, nevertheless, the daily mortification to see her gradually sink; but with the most placid and serene statement of her future hope, through the great atonement exhibited in the Gospel, of enjoying endless rest; upon which she entered on the twelfth day after her delivery.

The infant was still-born. I asked the Doctor afterwards, whether he thought we ought to attribute the fatal termination of this case to the violence exercised in preventing hemorrhage? "Certainly not," was his answer; "we are compelled to adopt the same remedy continually."

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PERITONITIS IN A MALE SUBJECT.

Mr. ——— received a violent kick on the abdomen from a horse. Pain and tenderness demanded surgical attention. Twenty leeches were instantly applied in situ. The relief expressed by the gentleman was more than could be expected; but the symptoms recurring, twenty more leeches were

applied on the following day, and twenty more two days afterwards. Now it was deemed advisable to produce ptyalism, by the general action of hydragyrus, which was speedily accomplished by Hydr. *ê Cretâ 3j ter. de die* ; from which period all alarming symptoms subsided.

How far superior is practice to theory ! Many of our young Sophs would have said, There are no anastomosing branches to communicate with the distended vessels within, to render available the use of cuticular exhaustion or irritation. Granted : we admit the fact ; but the inference is preposterous—nay, and would be often destructive. The same objection might oppose all salutary effects often produced on the skin of the chest, when the lungs are inflamed ; or on the temples and other parts, when the delicate organ of the brain labours under inflamed action.

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#### ON SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

About thirty years ago, Edward Coleman, Esq. now professor of the Veterinary College, published a work on this important subject ; and as I had frequent interviews with him about that period, at the dissecting-room, I imbibed the spirit of his valuable work, and feel progressively assured that his arguments are decisive and unanswerable. That



the subject has excited so little attention in the medical world has long been to me matter of surprise. The Professor's idea is, that in cases of drowning, &c. the cause of death is owing to the surcharge of venous blood in the heart and its appendages; and during that stage of suspense, all external heat and friction are calculated to augment the difficulty; hence the necessity *first* of expanding the chest by bellows, and pressing on the trachea, to avoid the entrance of air along the œsophagus. His words are, "That the final intention of the whole plan of treatment is to imitate the natural circulation;" and, furthermore, he details the plan, viz. first expanding the lungs, which, by pressing against the sides of the heart, will probably relieve it of its burden of venous blood, and then collapsing them by pressure, strictly adhering to the precept, "Whatsoever thou doest, do quickly," all other means should be classed as subordinate and secondary.

Having resided full thirty years in the vicinity of the Thames, I confess I think I have witnessed success accompanying the plan of friction and external heat alone; but in such cases I have always attributed the recovery to the favourable situation of the parties, and probably to the heart never having altogether ceased to pulsate. This opinion I have ever endeavoured to impress on the minds of the humane circle of attendants, who are always exceedingly prompt to render assist-

ance under such circumstances (to say nothing of the reward presented for these services) ; having for my motive the spreading of that necessary information, in which the life of a fellow-creature is involved, and which, where medical agents are not at hand upon emergency, is above all price. In this way, an active, though ignorant man, by the use of bellows, might accomplish more than all scientific interference, if the latter were restricted only to friction and the fumes of tobacco.

The following instance in point, where the party had been under water more than fifteen minutes, is worthy of a brief narration. I was at hand, and went instantly to the spot. The heart had ceased to pulsate ; the pupils did not in the least contract upon the approach of a strong light ; and, in short, it appeared to be nearly as hopeless a case as ever I was summoned to. However, upon the repeated application of bellows, to imitate natural respiration, symptoms of latent existence began to dawn, and in half an hour I left the subject (a female of fifty) in a profound sleep, with a good pulse at the wrist.

I was a few months ago engaged in a warm dispute with some impertinent clerks from a counting-house in Queenhithe, because I positively objected to the use of the lancet, inasmuch as it was calculated to lead the by-standers into a fatal error. I had indisputable proof, after waiting half an hour, continually expanding and propelling the air from

the lungs, that the immortal spirit of the subject had fled; and when another practitioner, of a more accommodating character, proposed the fumes of tobacco up the rectum, I did no longer choose to sanction such a method by my presence, and withdrew, saying, "Gentlemen, while you were good little boys in your cradles, I have rescued, in this very habitation, victims, both male and female, by simply distending the lungs so as to imitate natural respiration; and I feel now no disposition nor intention to abandon the same, not even for the obstinate reasoning and clamour of the whole parochial district."

I cannot exculpate the medical committee of the Royal Humane Society, (though I have for some years been one of that active body,) for so long lending their sanction to the deleterious fumes of tobacco (though now happily abandoned) in their circulars for general direction; and I repeatedly remonstrated with Dr. Hawes upon the subject. His reply to me, at least, was every thing but satisfactory—nay, I must add, very puerile. I said to him: "If there exist the least proof of life not having been extinct, my conscience (amenable to the highest tribunal) would be chargeable with being accessory to the guilt of premature interment, if I did not rescue that subject by prompt distention of the lungs; and if no suitable instrument were at hand, as the best substitute I should repose confidence in breathing

from human lungs, pressing upon the chest bone, and urging the by-standers to exert themselves by lateral pressure, thus to imitate natural respiration."

Dr. Hawes felt indignant at the contempt poured upon the fumes of tobacco by Professor Coleman ; to which I replied, that, although I attempted not to vindicate any thing in the profession unbecoming a gentleman to do, yet I cordially approved of all the views of that eminent man ; and as truth must be somewhere, it is certainly no unpardonable error if zeal for human life betray us, in a slight degree, to intrench on the borders of individual feeling.

I shall never forget Mr. Z——, of chylo-poietic notoriety, on his witnessing the withdrawment of a lad from the water, at the foot of Westminster Bridge. Life might, for aught I know, have been extinct ; yet, being inquired of as to the propriety of his interference, he inhumanly and with prodigious *sang froid* replied, " No, it is of no use."

A few years since, I occupied two pages of the London Medical Repository upon this interesting topic, believing that it had not sufficiently engaged the attention of medical men. The chief bearings of the argument were derived from Professor Coleman, who, as I before observed, wrote expressly on the subject, and with a correctness which challenges every adversary ; and as I dissected with him at Guy's, while the investigation



occupied his attention, I have felt in it an increasing interest.

The unsuccessful case recorded in the Repository, has, in many subsequent instances, been contrasted; and as I feel persuaded that many lives are yearly sacrificed through inattention, I lift up my voice once more, in hope that some proportionate value will be set on human life, and the means of its restoration.

In the spring of 1787, at which time I had been an apprentice to Dr. J. Alderson of Norwich but a few months, we were suddenly summoned to an accident that had happened at Pockthorpe, where a lad had fallen into a mill hopper filled with grain, and was suffocated before he could be extricated. Upon our instant arrival on the spot, the boy was pronounced dead, and no efforts had been made to restore him, although it was confessed he had not been immersed five minutes. This neglect left an impression upon my mind which can never be erased.

I find, upon drowning mice, a considerable time elapses before life is absolutely extinct, and much more so in rats; and I should presume that the superior animal, man, is in a still greater degree more tenacious of existence.

This is a subject which ought not to be abandoned hastily. All the human race are interested in it; and the writer is so convinced of its importance, that he was accustomed to preserve

the *modus operandi* in his pocket for many years, lest any necessity for the energetic operations should be called into practice.

The immediate distention of the lungs by means of bellows, to imitate natural respiration, and pressing upon the trachea, to prevent the descent of air into the stomach, appear obviously the first process to unload the surcharged heart of dark-coloured blood, before external heat be excited. The one exertion being attended to without the other, is necessarily calculated to add to the mischief.

Several cases have recently come before the public, in which patients appear to have been premature victims of this neglect. It could be wished that all reporters were more precise in subjoining explicitly the identical means made use of, and to what length of time persevered in, before despair paralyzed all further proceedings. With me, it is not enough to say that there existed no contractile power of the pupils to act upon the near approach of a strong light ; for, under such circumstances, I have seen life restored by distending the lungs after the subject has been under water fifteen minutes. *Nil desperandum.*

August 13th, 1822—"A respectable youth, named Christopher Cliff, employed at Mr. Ackermann's Repository in the Strand, while bathing in the river, near Waterloo Bridge, unfortunately sunk into a deep hole, and was drowned. The ac-

cident being observed by several persons, the drags were instantly put in requisition, which very soon caught the body, and it was conveyed to the Spotted Dog, in Strand-lane. Two medical gentlemen were sent for, who promptly arrived with their apparatus, &c. which they used with the utmost perseverance for upwards of an hour and a half, but without the slightest success, the spark of life being totally extinct."

How deficient, both in respect of science and humanity, is this statement! Why not furnish the public with the precise means employed, and the instantaneous results, before the unfortunate victim was thus hopelessly given up? Whether were the bellows put quickly into requisition? Whether did the breast expand under the distention of the lungs, liberating them from the surcharged blood?

Life is a sacred trust. I long to see the public put completely in possession of the anatomical fact, so as to make every man independent of medical aid, under such perilous circumstances. I had many warm debates with the late Dr. Hawes, upon the subject, but could never satisfy my mind with a coincidence of opinion. My arguments were, the uncertainty of medical aid, the time lost, and the difference of opinion even with those who are supposed to possess perfect information.

Truth must lie somewhere; and how generally with the humble and moderate.

## DROWNING.

A case recently occurring on the northern shore of the Thames, I very promptly obeyed the summons for my attendance. The subject, a soldier, ætatis 50, (who had escaped the dangers of the field, and perished in still waters,) had been immersed about ten minutes. There were, from the commencement, no indications of life, even the most languid. The pupils refused to contract upon presenting a strong light. The bellows, forcibly applied, distended the lungs; but the extinction of the vital spark had rendered all our exertions of no avail. The humane master, intent upon his servant's recovery, asked what would be the effect of galvanism? I replied, it would be destructive loss of time. Whether heat to the arm-pits or feet would be available? That application, I said, would be worse than useless, inasmuch as an increase of blood would flow directly to the heart, and possibly extinguish the latent spark, did any exist. The surcharged heart must be first unloaded before we can hope for success. The only secret is, to imitate natural respiration: anatomically considered, it is certain destruction to be diverted from this step.

Although I have laid down this imperative law for more than thirty years, little impression has been made on the public mind in this vicinity.



There is no charm in medical hands, if they refuse attending to the lungs. No profession is privileged to the exclusion of blunderers, and such will occasionally lose a hopeful case; but if the humane attentions of the untaught be continued with perseverance in the use of bellows, they will often meet with success. I know an instance where, before medical aid could be obtained, the drowning party was rescued by that simple and single process.

In the case with which this paper commenced, after labouring for twenty minutes, thoroughly distending the lungs, with the view of compressing the heart, to afford the best and only chance of success, we were compelled to declare the inutility of farther efforts. However, we had this consolation, that had the subject been an endeared relative, more could not have been done; beside that the numerous by-standers had acquired a useful lesson, of which they might practically and usefully avail themselves, irrespective of the scientific art, on any subsequent occasion.

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ON VACCINATION.

[*Medical Repository, April, 1821.*]

Having been, from its formation to the present period, a medical agent to the National Vaccine Establishment, from which also I have been pre-



sented with a diploma, I feel it an imperative duty to endeavour to dispense (though confessedly in a very small degree) somewhat of that stock of information which such a situation imparts, and which is so important in the social circle.

About twenty-one years ago, vaccination became a subject of very general interest, and of parliamentary interference. At this period I inoculated my eldest child with the variola, having been satisfied with it, from fourteen years' experience; though a secret misgiving was prevalent, that, at the termination of a given period of time, say seven or fourteen years, the preventive influence of vaccination would cease altogether. About this period I dined with Dr. Jenner, and being placed immediately on his left hand, I had a very fair opportunity of frankly stating my fears, and, at the same time, confessing my ignorance. He assured me, that at Gloucester he could produce me many cases in which the vaccine virus had been received into the habit fifty, nay, seventy years ago; and from that period the individuals, though repeatedly exposed to the small pox, had been invulnerable. This answer, as it appeared to flow from the heart, I could not call in question, and have in consequence persisted in the use of vaccination with progressive confidence and satisfaction; considering the paucity of reputed failures as less than nothing in the balance of myriads of cases rescued from death by previous vaccination.

A youth, endowed with superior intellectual powers, just about entering upon the legal career, ætatis 16, Bread-street, required my assistance under febrile paroxysms, attributed by his parents to undue exercise. As all fevers are so nearly allied, and in the incipient stages have an almost universal character, I only prescribed an emetic and purgative, expecting (according to my first prognosis) to take leave of him the succeeding day. I had contended with the intelligent maternal parent, that as the pulse was implicated, there must be some general disturbance, which could not possibly be the result of ordinary cold; but, willing to anticipate its immediate subsidence, (so often witnessed in other instances) I conceded somewhat prematurely. However, on the second visit, there was an abatement, but not a removal, of the febrile symptoms, and I was shown two small pimples on the wrist, which under the finger exhibited a gritty sensation, recognised only in variola. Now the secret was developed; and upon further inquiry, whether pain in the back had accompanied the rigours, and being answered in the affirmative, the case was established beyond a doubt. The full routine of the antiphlogistic plan, with total exclusion of solid or fluid *nutritious* aliment, uniform ventilation of the room by night as well as by day, (it was in one of the summer months,) were resorted to. We were by these means prepared to meet

an adversary of doubtful character (not in nature, but severity). Two days more kept me in suspense as to the degree of its violence, but by the fifth the storm was over. The largest, or master pustule, would not have furnished a sufficient quantity of matter to inoculate five subjects, if we had been so disposed. But the divine prohibition is absolute—"Thou shalt not kill." To settle this, I leave with the consciences of the Military.

Honour's a puff of noisy breath,  
Yet men expose their blood,  
And venture everlasting death  
To gain that airy good.—WATTS.

The eruption was a small sprinkle, and terminated on the fifth day, leaving the patient earnestly soliciting food. But for the incipient severity, I would certainly designate it a case of varicella, rather than variola.—However, a marriagable sister I vaccinated, to allay her fears.

This being with me the sixth case of reputed failure, I was solicitous to discharge my duty in reporting it with medical truth, being aware that ramifications of the anti-vaccine opinion extended to Holland, as well as to a large and enlightened circle in London. I affirmed that this convalescent subject was strongly disposed constitutionally to eruptive complaints, (in which I am borne fully out by the confession of the parents); and that,

at any period of his life, had he received the natural small pox, (i. e. had had the poison conveyed by the medium of the lungs), he would have had no more chance for life, than if blown out of a mortar; and could any practitioner have been found to inoculate him with small pox, (i. e. conveying the poison by the medium of the circulation, certainly on that account less hazardous,) I should have had many fears as to the result. So that I conclude it to be a positive triumph of vaccination. But this involves another inquiry, namely—How long, in the human species, does vaccination resist small pox? I answer, in the greater part for life; in others, seven, fourteen, or twenty-one years. If so, (which accords with my feelings and fears ab origine,) we must, to deserve the approbation of posterity, occasionally test the community gratuitously, by the insertion of the vaccine lymph.

A few months since, I re-vaccinated all my infant charge, to test the susceptibility to small pox; and found that in all a slight irritation was produced, but which, after a few days, ceased altogether.

It has never come to my knowledge, not even by report, that a child has been seized with convulsions or any fatal attack while under the process of vaccination; an immunity the more extraordinary in that peculiarly delicate period of their feeble existence.



## ABORTION.

Mrs. R——, ætatis 27, Surrey, aborted about the end of the third month. All obstetric professors agree, that within the fourth month we have no reason to calculate upon danger. The hemorrhage was considerable ; but not so much as to require the vaginal plug, which Dr. Osborne used to denominate “tompong,”—serving the purpose mechanically and effectually of preventing any further loss of blood. Apprehensive of no danger, I treated the case only as ordinary, but peritonitis supervened, and death closed the scene ; proving the imperfection of obstetric lecturers, and the impropriety of placing implicit reliance upon such a prognosis.

Woman is the only part of the creation, “bringing forth an untimely fruit.” About the spring of the year 1800, in a certain domestic circle, the queen of the establishment presented her spouse with twins. A variety of concurring circumstances brought on a perplexing train of nervous symptoms, for the relief of which nothing contributed so much, in respect of promptitude and permanency, as the cold bath, putting the medical man in possession of a fact, of the value of which he was not before sufficiently aware. The reasoning which followed was natural and obvious. If such be the potency of ablution in



general debility, it ought also to be efficacious in uterine weakness. To those females accordingly, who have consulted me on the subject of abortion, I have uniformly advised the daily use of the hip bath, with the necessary caution of thoroughly wiping the skin, so as to produce a subefacient effect, to secure the salutary reaction wherever the water has come into contact with it. Many pleasant plants have thus been spared to their endeared connexions.

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Mrs. F——, of Ludgate-street, had so many prodigious and alarming hemorrhages under abortions, as repeatedly to endanger her life. The hip bath was at length resorted to, and the tendency to abortion ceased. Advancing towards the sixth month, she observed, “I feel the water so refreshing every morning, that I should like to plunge into our large reservoir in the wash-house.” “My good lady,” I said, “it is against the rules of all the obstetrie schools, but I think we may safely depart from the strict letter in this instance.” Heneeforward, upon rising early, she wrapt a blanket about her person, and deliberately rolled herself into the water, returning to her bedroom usually before the industrious husband was awake. This daily process was continued till within a week of her aecouchement, when we were favoured with twin boys, who now grace the

domestic board, "like olive plants," and the delighted mother strongly recommends the cold bath to all her acquaintance.

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THE NECESSITY OF PATIENCE IN THE ACCOUCHEUR.

The enlightened and learned Dr. K—— reports his having been called into a severe case of natural labour with the third child. He learned that, from the protracted character of the two preceding labours, it was deemed justifiable to open the head of the fœtus, and deliver the mother: the cases had all presented fairly. He paused in this instance, and prescribed sixty drops of Tinct. Opii. All the parties in anxious attendance were worn out by fatigue. For a considerable time the god Morpheus incarcerated them all. The pains aroused the mother, and actually protruded the living child before any aid could be procured.

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Mrs. G——, of Stamford-street, required my assistance with her first child: the labour commenced a fortnight before the calculation (such, we all know, is the uterine impatience with the first-born), and as the pelvis was very contracted, the pains came on with great severity, though inefficient for the space of forty-eight hours. A becoming degree of solicitude in such cases is as

praiseworthy, as a stoical apathy is disgusting; but I had here to contend with inquiries so multiplied, and in such quick succession, as to put my patience to a severe test. In fine, I was urged by numerous relatives to destroy the branch in order to save the root,—the patient herself twice twelve times repeating, that she had no “strength to bring forth,” and should be a victim, as she imagined the poor Princess Charlotte had been. However, I adverted to the sacred mandate, “Thou shalt not kill.” I had no proof that the infant was dead; but abundant evidence that the pulse of the patient was vigorous: I proposed to withdraw, and transfer the case into the hands of any other practitioner in whom they might place implicit confidence. While this altercation was proceeding, and while I was urging them at the same time to give the lady “in the straw” plenty of fluid support to preserve her strength, telling her to “be of good cheer,” the pain increased, and in an hour presented the anxious parents with a well-formed heir and noisy claimant to the estate.

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ON THE VAPOUR OF ACETIC ACID IN COUNTERACTING  
PUTRESCENCY.

Having been in both the public and private departments of medical practice for nearly thirty-

four years, I take the liberty of suggesting the result of my individual experience, relative to the steam of vinegar: indeed, when I reflect upon the numerous accounts of the spread of contagion, so extensive in some cases, that every individual within its sphere has become infected by the atmospheric influence, I exceedingly regret having withheld my preventive plan so long from the profession. When I am called to a case of ardent fever, ushered in with rigour, &c. I pursue my usual method of giving an emetic and a purge, with the full employment of the antiphlogistic regimen; and if the pulse require it, venesection; if not, most probably leeches and blistering; administering pretty copiously Pulv. Ant. and Calomel, equal parts of which, I usually find, will reduce the febrile symptoms, and establish the new action of ptyalism, which immediately relieves the febrile symptoms, though they be not of recent formation. But the principal motive of taking up my pen on this subject, is to detail the virtues of the fumes of common vinegar suffered to be emitted in the room of my patient—a vessel containing the vinegar being placed over a lamp kept constantly burning. Whether the contagious matter of typhus be an ammoniacal exhalation, of which the olfactory nerves will perceive pretty strong proof, I am not prepared to affirm; but I think I may say, without fear of contradiction, that the acetic acid seems to meet with an alkali,



and to neutralize it ; relieves the patient, aids his recovery, and, above all, precludes the possibility of transmitting the infection. The sulphuric acid poured upon the muriate of soda, I consider a perfect bagatelle. But, at any rate, this I can affirm, that hitherto, in the whole course of my medical practice, I have never met with a second party susceptible of the typhus or scarlatina, (except in one doubtful instance,) after the gaseous fumes of acetic acid had been suffered to rise.

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#### THE IMPORTANCE OF MEDICAL CARRIAGE AND ADDRESS

Is occasionally considerable, and is calculated to produce an impression upon the minds of anxious attendants. It is not necessary that the countenances of medical men should be as grave and sombre as those of mutes and undertakers, but the contrary, and for obvious reasons, viz. the endeavour to render help to the diseased parties ; and a consciousness of the integrity of the motive will necessarily inspire cheerfulness : but that this should be kept within the bounds of sobriety and proper restraint, in the presence of solicitous friends, is very manifest. I remember coming out of a house in Holborn with Dr. R——, in a case where the healing art proved abortive, and upon entering into the carriage in a more cheerful manner than was perhaps proper, a voice sounded in



our ears—"See how these doctors are humbugging us!"—A phraseology homely and vulgar enough, but calculated to moderate our levity.

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## AFTER-PAINS

Arc to us inexplicable: no obstetric professor has hitherto been able to assign a consistent cause for them. It is a subject possibly "too high for us." We should think, certainly, that the non-existence of nerves in the funis would preclude the possibility of transmitting impressions to the fœtus in utero, and there are those who absolutely deny altogether that this occurs. But such persons cannot have largely mingled their sympathies with the social circle. Knowledge is far from perfection, whilst our researches are restricted to solitary thinking, and access to the best stored libraries. We must come out of our retreat and mingle with the busy hum of men, rub off our rust by friendly collision, and submit ourselves to the rasp of irony and criticism, in order to lower our pointed and consequential conceits.

Our medical society was engaged a whole evening on the subject of the best mode of treating after-pains. Some accoucheurs resort to laudanum: an unexpected death occurring where a large dose of this medicine had been administered, served as an occasion for the discussion. Several of us objected to the remedy, under

such circumstances. I have long abandoned it, and find the best substitute in Tinct. Tolu, in the form of draught or mixture, incorporated and suspended with mucilage of gum arabic. Its effect is instant relief; but it must be often repeated. What is a great acquisition in the medicine is, that whilst it produces relieving powers, it has a tendency to promote moderately the lochia.

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## ANASARCA.

Mr. S——, ætatis 82, of short stature, regular and temperate habits, unusually vigorous pulse and active temperament. The scrotum and lower extremities became very œdematous; the kidneys, as if aware of the dangerous circumstances of the patient, acted very freely, being probably accelerated in their action by Sal: Diuretic. Scarifications by the lancet having been long since exploded as altogether unwarrantable, and nature furnishing us with several outlets, it was observed that *de acupuncturâ* superseded the necessity of that novel and probably useful operation. One large and extending ulceration generated worms, which excited the horror of the sympathizing party; to whom I replied, “they often take premature possession of us.” I think I never came in contact with a more placid and amiable character in my life than the sufferer in this case. His

acquaintance with the blessedness of genuine piety was subsequent to the period of 60; a rather remarkable circumstance in the history of one who had always been associated with pious persons. This is the third instance of late conversion which has occurred to my knowledge in my own immediate vicinity. The facility and suitableness with which he recurred to the inspired volume, proved the deep impression made upon his happy mind. His chamber was indeed a Bethel.

When God makes up the last account  
Of natives in his holy mount,  
'Twill be an honour to appear  
As one new-born or nourished there.—WATTS.

This venerable character expired Dec. 16, 1823, in full possession of the most tranquil expectation of future bliss promised in the holy oracles.

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#### ON THE USE OF ANODYNES IN FEVER.

Mrs. M——, of Doctors' Commons, on one of the very sultry days during last year took a copious draught of porter under a state of profuse perspiration. About half an hour afterwards, a globular and permanent fulness arose in the stomachie region, with increasing uneasiness. After suffering much torture for three days, and finding that ætieve purgatives did not render her the least degree of relief, I was requested to see her; but as she

possessed a good vibrating pulse, I was in suspense for a time how to act. The fatal termination of a similar case occurring to one of our Waterloo heroes in Paris, where venesection had had a full trial ; and recalling to my mind's eye the successful practice of the late Dr. Lubbock of Norwich, I determined to risk the trial of opium, both in the fluid and solid state. In the middle of the night, however, I had my misgivings whether I had done perfect justice to my patient in withholding the use of the lancet ; and on a succeeding visit, I was agreeably surprised to find the tumour and pain had subsided, with refreshing intervals of sleep ; yet as the pulse was more rather than less full, I determined to abstract blood. Not more than ten ounces were taken ; it exhibited no carbonated appearance ; and my patient's recovery was pleasantly progressive.

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ON THE DANGERS ATTENDING THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
ANODYNES TO CHILDREN.

I well remember the earnestness with which Dr. Lowder, in the years 1790 and 91, used to advise his pupils against the exhibition of laudanum to infants, urging as a sufficient reason, " that he had seen half a drop throw an infant instantly into a convulsion."

Now as this humane caution circulated in the midst of medical students of so remote a date, we

may perhaps be surprised to hear the following recent confession. However, we may applaud the candour of the avowal made by Dr. —, who said he had reason to fear he had been the occasion of the death of two young children, to whom he had prescribed two or three drops of laudanum.

The following circumstance is well known in the medical circle :—A professional gentleman having a convivial party at his house, was so much annoyed by the screams of his own child, then at the breast, that he ordered two drops of laudanum to be given to it. The little innocent ceased its cries and slept, but awoke no more in our world of folly and guilt !

To prove how much more easy it is to preach than to practise, I was about twenty years since unwise enough to administer three or four drops of laudanum to Miss B—, a child, near Temple Bar. I confess I felt a few doubts at the time, whether it was not too large a dose, though the urgency of the case appeared to justify the application ; but about an hour after I had retired to rest, I was hastily called to my little patient, whom I found in a state of coma sufficient to alarm the surrounding parties. I immediately perceived the error, and, lest it should be fatal in the sequel, kept the infant in a state of regular motion, so as to disturb the dreadful operation of the anodyne ; and by the time the dawn of day arrived, felt myself authorised,



by the evident improvement of my patient, to return home.

In my walks westward, I occasionally meet Miss B., whose smiling countenance, while it pleases, never fails to remind me of perils past, of which she has no consciousness.

It is pretty generally understood that when an anodyne is requisite (and in some bowel complaints it is indispensably necessary,) in the case of infants, Pulv. Ipecac. Comp. or Tinc. Opii Camphor. may be safely prescribed.

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#### AN ANOMALOUS CASE

Very recently occurred in the daughter, ætatis 20, of a Minister of the Gospel, more than a hundred miles in a south-west direction from London. The subject being of a leuco-phlegmatic temperament, convulsive paroxysms of a most ungovernable nature were suddenly produced, referable, as was supposed, to sedentary habits and neglected evacuations. Relief was obtained from moderate measures, but relapses quickly succeeded. More active means were deemed justifiable, but without success. At length, the paroxysms assumed the character of periodical mania. Bleeding had been pushed to a great extent; ptyalism had been long kept up; opium, hyoscyamus, &c. had made only a temporary impression. After a trial of eight months' patient perseverance, the party was left .

under the affliction of all the diseased paroxysms in their full force, with the additional symptom of an increasing pain of the head.

Upon referring the case to a metropolitan consultation for further instruction, the opinion of the body of medical counsellors was, that the means made use of (doubtlessly with the purest intentions) were not borne out in the case of a leucophlegmatic subject; and that the head-ache succeeding and remaining, resulted from the activity of the depletory measures.

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#### ANOTHER ANOMALOUS CASE.

A strange Seaman, seeing "Surgeon" written on my door, called to request me to pass my opinion on his case, which was a singular one. Upon stripping, the stomach was swollen, and in a visibly violent rotatory motion. He begged I would place my hands there, but which instantly receded as from a sur-charged electric battery with which I was formerly accustomed to kill rats. My curiosity was now excited to the utmost; for it was too palpable to allow the construction of deceit and imposture. We now became sober and collected. He said, "Sir, you'll see the effect of swallowing;" taking a piece of bread from his pocket and beginning to masticate it. Grasping the abdomen at the same time, I found that the invisible agent receded towards the vertebræ of the

poor man's back, and remained perfectly quiet for half a minute, afterwards gradually returning to its original posture and activity. The nearest comparison I could make to this movement was that of a cat struggling to avoid suffocation in a close sack. The wretched man said his life was a constant burden. He answered very intelligibly to every question proposed. I asked if he could assign any reason for this strange sensation. No other than that as he was rowing up the river Gambia, being thirsty he put his hand over the boat to take a sip of water, and, in the hasty act of swallowing, found something had gone down to his stomach; dating his sufferings from that period. The man appeared perfectly devoid of guile. He stated his having called on Mr. —, of Bishops-gate-street, who said "he would like to cut him open." The poor man showed his sense of the insult by the reply, "I hope not, Sir, till I am dead." I gave him a little pecuniary relief, and directed him to call on Mr. Blair.

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## ANTIDOTES.

About the year 1794 the eccentric Dr. De Valangin narrated an anecdote, the subject of which was the swallowing of arsenic. He was once subpoenaed to the Old Bailey, as a witness on a trial for theft, in which act, it appeared by the evidence, the thief had been obstructed by a mas-

tiff. The Judge asked the delinquent why he had not poisoned the animal with arsenic? "No, my Lord, (said the prisoner) we know that there is too much salt in the stomach of that creature to allow the poison to take effect." This suggestion the Doctor followed up in his future practice; and he moreover assured me that he had tried salt and water in six cases where arsenic had been swallowed by suicides, and the parties all recovered.

I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the following statement, but, if it be correct, it cannot have too great currency.

All poisons, whether of copper or arsenic, are corrected by swallowing one table-spoonful of powdered charcoal mixed with any suitable vehicle, which will afford a complete antidote. An emetic should be afterwards administered. A chemical decomposition takes place; the oxygen unites with the carbon; and the copper or arsenic regains its metallic properties, in which state it is perfectly harmless.

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#### PULVIS ANTIMONIALIS

Is not inert, as many of our stars of the first magnitude in the medical horizon affirm. Miss M. S——, ætatis 13, having just escaped the severities and dangers attendant upon a seizure of scar-

latina anginosa, was brought to my house by her anxious relatives, from whom I learned the following minute particulars :—

The subject, with very narrow chest and a little lateral deformity, exhibited all the characteristic marks of ineipient phthisis : morning perspiration, afternoon rigors and flushings, and above all a feeble pulse of 140. I prescribed milk diet, and Pulv. Antim. gr. v. omni nocte. Under this medicine she improved so rapidly, that when, about a week afterwards, I was hastily called to visit her sister two miles out of town, I was astonished to see the decided amendment ; and the pulse, now reduced to 70, bore uniform witness to the external expression of returning health. “ Sæpe utilissimum, quod contemnitur.”

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ON THE ADVANTAGES OF ANTIMONIALS (*Sulph. Antim. Præcipitat.*) IN THE CASE OF HOOPING COUGH.

In the year 1805, a gentleman of pleasing address called upon me, and inquired whether I made use of a specific for the hooping cough. I replied, that for some twelve or fourteen years my practice had confirmed the efficacy of an antimonial preparation for that untractable disease. He proceeded to observe, that he had taken the earliest opportunity of conveying to me the following information, which he thought it my duty to make



public. I repelled the proposal, as I had often done before, inasmuch as that were the readiest way of destroying its value and use. It appeared, however, upon subsequent recital, that this polite stranger (residing at Guildford) had two children labouring under the last and hopeless state of hooping cough, who were thought to be incurable by Mr. —, their valuable medical confidant in that town, and who left them on the sofa with a prediction the most melancholy. The mother, (O what a name is that for children!) half distracted at such a prognosis, sought illegitimate relief, and, to use the father's words, "Some of your powder was fortunately in our town, which we employed, and the third day they were both declared out of danger." Absorbed by the affecting sympathetic detail, I was deficient in not inquiring the name of the gentleman; but courtesy forbids me to think otherwise than candidly of him. Medical law prohibits the circulation of empirical specifics; but the Christian law says, Do good to all. The remedy is, as before alluded to, adding a minute proportion of tartarized antimony.

A few months afterwards I invited the attention of my valuable fraternity to this subject, by a communication in the 77th Number of the London Medical and Physical Journal.

## APHONIA.

Hoarseness is a perplexing and troublesome complaint: Mr. C—— informed me that Mr. Ring (of vaccinating notoriety) had carried him through all the processes of medical science, without the least degree of relief, restricting his remedies principally to local applications; but that he (Mr. C.) obtained quick relief, from swallowing a few teaspoonfuls of balsam sulphuris. I added this medicine to my scanty resources, chiefly confining myself to antimonials, cold water or ice creams; but two cases baffled me. The subjects exhausted their patience under my prescriptions, and when I learned that they had recovered their voice, I was of course solicitous to know the successful means. From the lips of the female practitioner to whom they had applied, I was informed that she had mixed gin and oatmeal together, in the form of soft paste, and made the patients swallow as much as they could get down, without limitation. My smiles and scepticism were only answered by a sagacious shake of the head, and a reference to the effects produced. I could say no more, and acquiesced in the admitted aphorism, "That old women can do as well as old men," and sometimes better.

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 APOPLEXY.

Mr. R——, ætatis 63, unmarried, and understanding nothing experimentally of dulce domum,

was driven in consequence to spend his evenings abroad. A *bon vivant*, he indulged liberally in brandy and water (not water and brandy, as Dr. Haighton facetiously used to say) with others of a similar description to himself. During the last three years this gentleman became my patient. He was a short, thick-set subject, with an over-charged pulse, and arthritic. Leeches, purgatives, with persuasives to abstinence, constituted all my chosen resources.—The patient finding quick relief, needed not further immediate aid. Mild aperients were preferred to *Extract Colocynth. comp. à Hydrargyro*; but he positively refused to renounce the constant use of ardent spirits. The bold character of the pulse afterwards exciting my serious apprehension, elicited from Mr. K—— nothing but contemptuous smiles. A few weeks subsequently, while he was in full health, and having swallowed his accustomed evening potion, he expired under a paroxysm of apoplexy, as suddenly as if by the rupture of an auricle of the heart.

I have no doubt but this wealthy gentleman (this son of Momus) might have enjoyed life in his own way many years, could he have been persuaded to submit to a little reasonable self-denial.

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*The benefit accruing from Venesection, in threatening*  
APOPLEXY.

Mr. P——, a Russian merchant, after having laboured for a fortnight under pain of the head

generally, and increasing, desired my services. I found a full pulse of 120 in a minute. There was not the slightest degree of aberration. After duly pausing, and considering whether I should with propriety permit the onus of responsibility to rest wholly with myself, the parties instantly replied, that they would submit to my opinion, and that should "be the law." I soon tied up the arm, and from a large orifice the venous fluid rushed with so impetuous a splash into a large basin, as I never before witnessed. When this vessel was three parts full I called for another, and so on to a fourth, the patient occasionally exclaiming with undissembled piety, "O what relief!" He now began to recline as if about to faint; and as the carbonic character of the blood assumed a brighter aspect, I desisted, after having taken more than 50 oz. From this period he appeared perfectly well, except that the digestive powers remained torpid and weak.

After two days he had a slight relapse, which cupping and leeching gradually removed, and which I think might have been prevented, had more blood been extracted at first; but it was such an evacuation as I had never felt myself authorised to adopt on any preceding period. We have indeed Charybdis as well as Scylla to fear. Several months have elapsed since this occurrence, and my patient is so fearful of producing a return of cerebral affection as to resist all intreaty "to take a little



wine." In this instance venesection was the alpha and omega. Candour, however, demands the confession, that I should not have felt myself authorised to proceed to so great an extent, but for the sagacious reasonings of the indefatigable Dr. Clutterbuck, to whose extensive labours society lies under incalculable obligations.

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*A Case exhibiting the beneficial effects of the liberal use of the Lancet.*

Mr. —, a tradesman in the City, applied to me for advice, in a case of periodical hemorrhage from the rectum, which was previously intimated by a peculiar sensation about the arch of the colon. The symptoms were attributed to a very considerable quantity of calomel prescribed by Mr. —. But be this statement correct or not, I found him visibly exsanguineous, though with a full and bounding pulse. Mr. Lawrence had prescribed oleaginous enemata with the best effects. Dr. Walshman being at this period called in as accoucheur to the wife of my patient, felt his pulse, pronounced it a case of menacing apoplexy, and ordered twenty-four ounces of blood from the arm. This operation was performed, and afterwards repeated in abstractions of lesser quantities. Upon examination, the appearance of the blood seemed to justify its removal. A rushing of blood (to use the patient's phrase) appeared to come from the



carotids, and so harass him as to excite an apprehension of immediate dissolution. The additional opinion of Dr. Babington was now requested, who; though aware of the hereditary tendency under which the family laboured, was yet convinced that any further reduction of the vital fluid would not be productive of benefit. I strongly protested against entering upon the stimulating plan, referring to the toughness of the crassamentum, and the sensible relief afforded to the patient by the previous venesection. Dr. B.'s reply was most judicious.—“How many, my dear fellow,” (we all know his urbanity) “do we see of females labouring under the uterine hemorrhage, and apparently exsanguineous, who are nevertheless annoyed by an intense head-ache, as if a hammer were at work, and who would be made worse rather than better by the lancet. Now my opinion is, that even in this case we should pause.” After the lapse, however, of a few weeks, finding the patient no better, and the pulse becoming full and hard, Dr. B. (labouring under the same fears as others had done before him) advised occasional cupping. In consultation, Dr. B. suggested the probable opinions of Dr. X., Dr. Y., and Dr. Z., and that some diversity of importance would be elicited. To which I replied, You completely make out the difficulty which the poet supposes—‘Who shall decide when doctors disagree?’ I urged that this supposed medical truth to lie somewhere; and, for society’s sake, it is of im-

mense importance to ascertain its existence. He said, "I believe that almost every case must be treated *sui generis* : the practitioner ought to be regulated by the existing symptoms, and act accordingly."

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*Apoplexy Suspended.*

Mr. L——, of Thames-street, possessed a pulse so forcible (I know from thirty years' acquaintance with him) as to menace the brain with serious inconveniences ; but his piety made him moderate at the table, and his general habits were calculated to promote longevity. When he had attained to the age of 70, the first seizure of apoplexy (after many premonitory symptoms) commenced about two in the morning.

The hasty demand for my assistance was promptly attended to. The character of the disease was awful and well marked. Bleeding was of course instantly resorted to, (the pulse being like a "cart-rope,") till the dawn of consciousness returned. I regretted that I had not followed up the same plan under similar circumstances. Nature was extremely accommodating in producing absorption, as by the following day my patient appeared so far recovered as to be (though not fully competent for business, yet) sufficiently capable of enlivening the social circle. The cautionary method was, comparative abstinence, bow-

els kept regular, retirement from distracting occupations, properly ventilated rooms, and preserving the scalp moist with spirits. Several months elapsed before he had a second fit, which passed off in the same way; as did also a third. As well as circumstances would allow, he now objected to the lancet. On the fourth attack I determined upon the trial of Tinct. Opii (Dr. Brown's favourite method), and was surprised to find him quite as soon composed as under the depletory plan. We had henceforward an easy remedy at hand upon every threatening return; and it certainly appeared to answer so well, that he acquired an undue attachment to it. In this manner, I presume, the fatal stroke was suspended till May 1823, when he calmly said to his attentive daughter who presented to him a piece of diet bread: "No! I shall want no more food; at such an hour, I shall have a fit from which I shall not recover." This prediction was literally fulfilled, though he did so far recover as to call for "The Book" with surprising emphasis. "What part shall I read, father?" said his daughter. "O! the twenty-third Psalm!" When she had read "Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me," he interrupted her by his animated petitions, "Comfort me! Comfort me!" and expired æt. 75.

I exceedingly regret I could not obtain a post mortem view of the several apoplectic cysts, which I have no doubt existed,

## CASE OF THE REV. I. D.

A Welsh labourer in the sacred vineyard of souls, long exercising a useful ministry in the city, with whom I enjoyed progressive intimacy during the last twenty years. His eccentricities were of so unique a character (although every individual of the human race is identically an original) as to be generally thought repulsive ; but being of sterling weight in the balances of the sanctuary, he was surrounded, if not by Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathæa, by the piety of many obscure yet worthy persons who appreciated his services ; and under such a guide have many, to my personal satisfaction, entered into the joy of their Lord.

Mr. D.'s pulse was marked by a bounding character of surprising strength, taking into account adequate reasons for his occasional peculiarities. The brain, most probably, had been subjected to undue arterial excitement all his days. In the pulpit he had always a paralytic appearance, and when warmed with his subject (" he that winneth souls is wise" as well as warm,) many were the fears that he would overbalance himself and fall over : some persons, indeed, retired, to save their feelings under such apprehensions. I said to him, " Abstinence and a vegetable diet, Sir, will do you more good than all medicine." Unfortunately, his digestive powers were keen, and what was worse, he preferred animal to vegetable nutriment. I



could do nothing. Apoplexy, which we had been long anticipating, at length was produced. Bleeding, cupping, cold spirituous lotions to the head, and opening the bowels, afforded more relief than could have been calculated upon. The blood drawn assumed no inflammatory character; and although the artery at the wrist was not less vigorous, I relied much on the temporising auxiliary of anodynes, which protracted somewhat his existence. But the final seizure must needs arrive: it took place one day last month (Dec. 1823), disengaging his spirit from imperfection, and translating it to an abode

“ Where all the air is love,  
And all the work is praise.”

A few months before this event he said, “ Doctor, you have never sent me in a bill; let me know what I owe you: I have always paid twenty shillings in the pound, and hope to leave my dear wife without any incumbrance of that description.”—Having assured my patient that there should be no such “ incumbrance,” he wept, shook me by the hand, and we parted with mutual affection.

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*Fatal effects of resisting blood-letting, in menacing symptoms of Apoplexy.*

Mr. H——, of Old-street, a man of temperate habits, but predisposed to apoplexy by hereditary taint, (his parents and elder brothers having been



all of full muscular shape, and [carried off about their 60th year) requested my advice in the course of August, 1822. From the full tone of his pulse, and knowing the general circumstance of his relatives, from nearly twenty years acquaintance, I urged with unusual entreaty (because of the cerebral excitement so generally prevalent at that period) the loss of blood instantly. The chief symptoms under which he laboured were vertigo and pain in the head. After a few weeks, he repeated his visit, and in consequence of not deriving the full benefit which he had expected from the depletory plan, he thought I had mistaken his case, some one having told him that "he rather wanted blood to be put into him than drawn from him." I smiled, called him a silly fellow, insisted that he was pursuing the direct course of deliberate suicide; and urged him, as a man of Christian principles, not to give heed to "old wives' fables." I lost sight of him for two months, when being sent for to his dwelling-house, I found him prostrate on his back, relieved from pain of the head, forsooth, but completely hemiplegic. Upon inquiry, I felt satisfied it was a metastasis from the brain to the spinal marrow and its sheath. With bitter self-reproach he lamented that he had not correctly followed my advice, begged I would exert myself to the utmost, and that he would implicitly obey me. Although I felt there was too much truth in the censure, it would

have been cruel in me to add to the severity of his mental distress. I replied "that human resources have their assignable limits." He pressed the subject with great earnestness, in the presence of his accomplished wife and affectionate children, who were weeping around his bed. It was a scene which will not be speedily erased from my memory. Being "strong in faith," he assured us he had no fears of death; that nevertheless he should like to live, but added "the will of the Lord be done." By eight or nine operations I took from the arm from ten to twelve ounces of blood each time, the character of the blood always justifying the measure by the toughness of the crassamentum and the turbid coat upon the surface; but the sensible relief was confined to the early operations. I then had recourse to cupping along the whole length of the spine, believing that that region, being sensibly warmer than the surrounding parts, was principally implicated. Leeches were afterwards liberally employed, and finally, blistering very extensively; but nothing would dislodge or divert the inflamed state of the parts, which, as I presume, actually existed. His gradual exit, which took place about the beginning of the subsequent January, was full of confidence and peace. I should have improved the opportunity of dissecting the spine post mortem, had I not been pressed for want of time, having at that period several cases of unusual urgency, at some considerable

distances out of town. I occasionally inquired whether the parties were desirous of further opinions on the case, repeating the saying of the wisest amongst wise men, viz. "In the multitude of counsellors there is safety." The answer was always "Do you desire it?" My reply was, that I only wished some other practitioner to bear a part in the responsibility. Believing myself in thorough possession of the case, I fearlessly affirmed that as far as instrumentality could extend, and without arrogating presumptuously, the very worthy gentleman might have had his existence protracted by the seasonable use of the lancet, cupping, leeches, &c. in which opinion I was fully borne out by the unanimous consent of the bereaved family.

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#### ON THE USE OF THE LANCET IN APOPLEXY.

As Dr. Latham has in some measure prohibited bleeding in apoplexy, I narrate the following case, which took place two years ago.

Mr. G——, æt. 50, in the firm of Messrs. Barclay, Perkins, and Co. after a lengthened period of pain in the head and vertigo, suddenly became apoplectic. I saw him under those circumstances, with all the usual horrific attendants of stertorous breathing, &c. His bounding pulse made me not hesitate to diminish the surcharged blood by the

liberal use of the lancet. At the close of the operation, consciousness and a return to ratiocination supervened more decidedly than I had been accustomed to witness under such circumstances. He was kept in a quiescent state, cupped, leeches, and the scalp kept constantly moist with brandy. In a few days he became convalescent, and was afterwards fully competent to the discharge of his duties in the establishment with which he is connected. With a view of promoting absorption, I pushed mercurials till ptyalism was produced; whether it contributed towards the attainment of that object I cannot take upon me to determine, but I have no hesitation in stating that an apoplectic cell or cyst exists, and that the lancet was the alpha and omega in the affair.

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*Audi alteram partem.*

Mr. V——, jun. æt. 18, of St. Thomas Apostle, having been sent with a letter to the Post Office, Lombard-street, in great haste, had just executed his parents' directions, when he fell down apoplectic and without consciousness. Mr. George Young and Dr. Laird were called instantly, and gave unremitting attention. The depletory plan, both general and local, was followed up regularly for ten or twelve days, but the practice was ultimately unsuccessful, the utmost of the benefit accruing being only a slight degree of approaching



consciousness. The post mortem appearances exhibited an extensive sheet of coagulated blood covering the whole surface of the brain.

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*On the apparently destructive effects from the insufficient use of the Lancet in APOPLEXY.*

Mrs. R——, of Smithfield, seventeen years ago, became apoplectic under a paroxysm of unusual anger with a servant about tea-time. She was in the sixth month of pregnancy. On being hastily sent for, I found my patient surrounded by several medical practitioners, and I hesitated not to bleed instantly to about twelve ounces. There was perfect unconsciousness, and stertorous breathing, with a full pulse. No signs of amendment appearing, and seeing indubitable evidences of approaching dissolution, I promised not to leave the almost distracted husband till death closed the scene, which took place between two and three in the ensuing morning. I have always reflected upon myself that I had not decided upon a more copious extraction of the surcharged blood, believing that there might have been hopes of her recovery, from what I have occasionally witnessed in subsequent cases.

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Mr. A——, ætatis 68, in my vicinity, was attacked with severe hemiplegia, which yielded under



the ordinary depletory measures, but left the patient strongly disposed to apoplexy, a fit of which took place six weeks afterwards, early in the morning. His swollen countenance and stertorous breathing indicated the rupture of a vessel; the pulse was prodigiously full. I immediately opened a vein, and took thirty ounces of blood, and Mr. E. Heywood immediately afterwards took twelve more by cupping. The character of the blood fully justified these evacuations. The symptoms moderated, the pulse abated, and, by the afternoon of the same day, he could articulate. By the daily use of leeches to the temples and employing other parts of the antiphlogistic regimen, our patient at length became so perfectly coherent as to perform a testate act.

Had we been called upon to institute *post mortem* inquiries, I feel persuaded we should have seen an apoplectic cyst, in which absorption had actually taken place.

Mr. E. Heywood, whose dexterity in cupping we all appreciate, affirms that he never before saw such a case recover. His testimony in that department I consider of great value.

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#### ASCITES.

Mr. S——, of Bread-street Hill, ætatis 55, lying as a useless log, with legs like blocks of marble, attracted my attention. The kidneys had ceased

to perform any regular motion. I pressed upon him the use of Kali Acetatum in a mixture, dissolving a considerable portion of this salt, which is a favourite with me under such circumstances, together with Hollands and water. He recovered the use of his limbs; the kidneys resumed their customary action; and in a few weeks he was perfectly competent to resume his usual occupations.

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## ASTHMA.

An asthmatic affection, of a most menacing character, occurred a few years ago to Mrs. —, ætatis 43. The subject was blue and bloated with dyspnœa, with accelerated and feeble pulse. She had been driven to the use of ardent spirits, by the ill treatment of her husband, democrats being usually domestic tyrants; and she, unhappily, not duly appreciating religion's "superior bliss," fell an easy victim to intemperance. Late at night, when first called in to this distressing case, I naturally referred her to her regular medical attendant, with whom I found she had disagreed, but I attempted in vain to re-establish him in her good opinion. When I perceived that all such efforts would prove abortive, I inquired what methods had been formerly pursued? The dernier resôrt I felt disposed to adopt was an anodyne; but she observed that that was

the last medicine which *her* doctor would think of giving her. Well, thought I, it is the only one I can now employ with a hope of success; and, without expressing my determination, I sent a small mixture of Ipecac. and Tinct. Opii, in a considerable dose. Scarcely expecting to see her alive in the morning, I gave her an early call, and was gratified by her speedy recovery. I occasionally hear of this patient, by one of her servants, when she is under the necessity of calling in the aid of the "beautiful drops," viz. the compound anodyne.

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## ASTHMATIC PAROXYSMS

Are of all visitations the most painful and perplexing to which the medical practitioner can be summoned, and he is necessarily led to sigh over the impotency of all remedial measures. I was called out of my bed a few months ago to see a reverend rector, ætatis 65, a patient of the late Mr. Ridout's, under a most severe paroxysm. I had learned by past experience that the lancet (that life-saving instrument, under some circumstances,) was not the cure for pure asthma. I was compelled to content myself with causing him to inhale the fumes of anodyne ether put into a teapot, previously heated. There were added pediluvium, &c. by way of expressing sympathy and trying some alleviation. I also employed that

suitable degree of attention which the distressing character of the disease demanded, but with the internal consciousness that I could neither abridge the duration, nor lessen the severity of the paroxysm. During these fruitless endeavours, the family practitioner having arrived, I was glad of the opportunity of transferring the case into superior hands, according to the customary etiquette under such circumstances, where the undivided onus previously rested, offering the aid of my medical chest, on account of the proximity of the patient to my dwelling, of which the practitioner readily availed himself.

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A few years ago, Mr. Thomas H——, of Mark-lane, became subject to asthmatic paroxysms, from exposure to cold and wet. Dr. Haighton exhausted all his varied ingenuity and medical skill for Mr. H.'s relief, but without any degree of sensible advantage. Dr. Relph, whose residence was directly opposite my patient, attempted in vain to effect a change. He relied upon large doses of Tinct. Opii; but nature carried the good man through, unassisted by art. We are now told that camphor, chewed at the commencement of the paroxysm, will mitigate its severity. I shall be very happy, if the report be founded in truth. This excellent character, before I had the honour of his confidence, had received an injury on his left elbow, from



a hogshead of sugar, which had been accidentally forced against him, and which literally pinned him to the wall. The bruise being of an alarming nature, the best advice was instantly sought, and Mr. John Hunter, the Great, daily attended him. The nature of the discharge, and exfoliations occasionally protruding, rendered this daily attention requisite, lest amputation, which was postponed from time to time, should become necessary. During this period of suspense, he was urged by an assiduous Christian friend, (I presume the Rev. Wm. Romaine) to take the essence of malt, with a view of correcting the character of the discharged matter. He took it one day pretty largely; in the following morning, Mr. J. H. arrived, as was expected (with his capriciously diminutive chapeau) to determine upon the propriety of the amputation. When the injured joint was exposed, he exultingly exclaimed, "We shall not deprive you, Sir, of this member: it will heal by ankylosis; here is laudable pus." It might not have been owing to the essence of malt; but Mr. H. always considered himself indebted to it for the partial use of a very valuable limb for the rest of his days.

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BLOWS ON THE HEAD SOMETIMES DANGEROUS.

The laborious and scientific Mr. Howship has elucidated this subject, in the very interesting case



of the wife of a bishop. A blow, inflicted by a governess with the edge of a ruler, upon the side of the head, gave rise to an ulcerated wound, occasioning the most distressing, and subsequently constant pains, and finally premature death. The post mortem examination developed such a destruction of parts as explained fully the cause of so much agony. The evil consequences of the want of due patience in a domestic governess is here obvious; how much more then does it behove the rougher sex to impose a restraint upon their tempers. The unguarded tide of irritation here operated like a flood of gall, to embitter all the subsequent days of a respectable female. Under my own roof, I have been occasionally obliged to interfere—sanctioning the interference by scripture, “smite not with the fist of wickedness.” I grant the interdiction was not conveyed by a very gracious phraseology, nor was it very graciously received; but parental duty was imperative. The young people must all be made proficient in the belles lettres, as far as their powers extend, and if they fail in executing your unrestricted orders, the parents will assign an appropriate discipline, which I shall undertake to say will be more effectual, and less hazardous, than indiscriminate thumps.

A few months ago I was hastily summoned to see a shrewd boy, ætatis 8, in a fit which suddenly seized him. It was very doubtful whether he

would recover from it; the depletory measures, however, were successful. The case being unusual and highly interesting, I spent a considerable space of time in investigating the probable cause, inquiring principally as to falls which might have hurt the head; for it required no conjuror to discern the encephalon to be the organ affected. My inquiries drew forth whispers, that on such a day his master, generally an excellent character, but who in this instance forgot himself, had inflicted a smart stroke upon the boy's head with a ruler. A head-ache ensued, which increased until the convulsive fit (which was horribly frightful) stirred up parental solicitude in a high degree. I could not give very sanguine expectations as to remedial measures: the mischief was out of human reach; but by rest, leeches, blisters, and keeping the scalp generally moist with common (not oleaginous) brandy, as best suited for the purposes of evaporation, relief was produced to a greater extent than had been anticipated. These flattering hopes, however, became gradually evanescent; the natural shrewdness of the boy was supplanted by a very slight degree of idiotcy; unusual pettishness, silence on subjects which formerly engaged his attention and delighted the pious and harmonious circle, constant moaning, objection to light and noise, the pupils rapidly varying in size, and a circumscribed pain in one portion of the head, excited the fear that an abscess was forming in the

brain, which, the instant it burst, might terminate fatally.

The disease assumed a dangerous character, as was obvious from constant tremulous motions of the muscles, succeeded by a wild, incoherent stare, while he seemed unable to recognise his endeared circle. If life were spared under such circumstances, I could not deny (when pressed for an answer) that idiotcy or insanity might be permanent. About a month previous to this distressing scene, I had prohibited the continued application of leeches, observing they failed to afford relief; and we "lay upon our oars," according to the prudential caution of Dr. Saunders. As the patient began to manifest a desire for moderate stimulants, I indulged him, from the wish of affording to the absorbents (which I believe, though they may never be tangible or visible, do actually exist in the brain) an opportunity to act with a sufficient efficiency in absorbing the diseased fluid, whatever it might be. To promote this design, I administered an evening anodyne, gradually advancing from eight drops of laudanum to fifteen. Suddenly he exclaimed, "O, Mamma! I feel as if my head had been pulled off backwards and replaced again, and now I know you; and there sits dear grand-mamma, and this is indeed our own house." The parties were too much alarmed to be joyful, fearing it was the precursor to instant dissolution, as I had apprised them of the probability of such an

event. They hastened, however, to my house; the recovery appeared complete, not leaving a vestige of incoherency. Upon inquiry, I learned that he appeared to have made more water than usual, for a few days previous to his sudden amendment; a circumstance which I presume is one evidence that the absorbing agents had set up their salutary action. I feel satisfied that had the depletory plan, so beneficial at the commencement, been followed up by blind perseverance, we should have defeated the salubrious resources of nature, and deprived society of a promising and hopeful member.

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An unhappy circumstance occurred not long ago, in a family at Hoxton, in consequence of attending a metropolitan fair, (the very carnival of sin and Satan.) Two children, both under two years of age, had been presented with a penny rattle. Each delighted with his own toy, boasted of its superiority, till the dispute between them became so high, that the one struck the other a violent blow on the head, which falling directly over the fontinelle, produced instant convulsions, and, after a few hours, death.

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#### A BRUISED INSTEP.

As Miss —, ætatis 47, a lady of considerable literary attainments, was crossing the street to my



residence, she was knocked down and trampled on by a spirited horse, which was under the guidance of an inhuman and violent driver. Providentially, she sustained no farther injury than a bruised foot and instep. The immediate application of leeches soon relieved her; but on the following day my patient returned home, and, conceiving her own judgment sufficient to direct her, neglected to continue the use of local depletion, though I peremptorily enjoined it. She applied fomentations and other inefficient remedies, permitting the extravasated blood to remain. The process of tedious absorption subjected her to lameness for eight months, which I believe might have been prevented by persevering in the use of leeches for as many days.

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#### A BRUISE ON THE EDGE OF THE ILEUM

Occurred to an apprentice, by a fall through a trap-door, incautiously left open. The father, who had himself suffered by fractured ribs, brought his son for my inspection, adding, that his master thought I had better bleed him. "Let every man understand his own business," I added; "your son has scarcely a pulse to be felt: you see he is as white as chalk. I would not bleed him for fifty pounds. I should fear it might lay the foundation for consumption, which I have reason to think has occasionally been the result of indiscriminate blood-



letting. Let him be cupped immediately on the part affected. I perceive there is no fracture. Let him be put to bed, and drink copiously of tea." I called upon his master three hours after to see my patient, and to remonstrate with the injudicious dictator, as to the mode of medical proceeding. The patient was asleep, having been instantly relieved from pain by cupping, and on the day following was out on his usual business. I referred the master to Dr. C—— for a lesson of instruction. "My good friend," said I, "continue to excel in your knowledge of Russian commodities, and suffer the medical world to follow up their all-important studies without the public's interference. We have too long laboured under these trammels, which, by an affectation of sympathetic discernment, have cost many lives."

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## A FATAL BUBO.

I was hastily summoned to a young man, residing at Lambeth Hill, just prior to the rupture of an artery which had been injured by the bubo. The surface of the wound was large, of an unhealthy aspect, and appeared to be the result of an undue degree of long-continued pyæmia. The pulsation of the iliac artery, denuded and excoriated by the constant exposure to an ichorous penetrating fluid, was awful. The afflicted patient seemed out of the reach of human

interference, though I have since thought that a ligature applied to the artery might have suspended the bleeding, if not saved his life. On my return home I reflected on those apocryphal words, "Oh, Adam ! what hast thou done?"

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## BUBONOCELE.

Mr. Blair often judiciously observed in medical societies, that the danger to be apprehended from liberating incarcerated hernia by the scalpel, arose more from delay than from any other cause. Many cases, as well as that of the Duke of Bedford, will justify this assertion. Occasionally, however, we shall witness the surprising resources of nature, even where sphacelus has taken place, of which I have known two instances: one was a case of credible hearsay from an indisputable quarter; the other passed under my own eye, during my attendance at the Norwich Hospital. Upon exposure, the parts were completely sphacelated, and returned and dressed without the smallest hope of success. The man could not be persuaded to submit to the operation in due time, but he eventually recovered. The new formed tubular intestine inclosed, I presume, the sphacelated portion, which passed off by the usual course. Who would ever urge a poor moving pestilence to submit to an artificial anus, if we could have any ground of hope in nature's resources? I happened to be

in company with the sister of this man very recently, when she confirmed all my recollected statement, and added that he married afterwards, and had a family.

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## CANCER.

For thirty years past we have been content with the doctrine, that the less we interfere with cancer the better, unless it be in the incipient stage; but the effects of pressure have recently relieved us from despondency; though soberly it is worth inquiring whether the boasted cures (wholly or partially) be not the result of the absorbents removing, by dint of pressure, the substance of the mammæ, leaving probably the patient in full possession of the terrific visitation. When a principal lump exists in the breast, we may in most cases reduce it by repeated leeching, and Mr. Cline's favourite remedy internally, viz. Flores Ammoniacales. I have seen this treatment disperse tumours in innumerable instances.

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## CARDITIS

Occurred two weeks after marriage to Mr. S——, ætatis 25, wine-merchant, Borough, a vigorous young man, of a robust temperament, and always in possession of high health; he was pious, and necessarily temperate in his habits and mode of

life.—Under these circumstances, this untractable disease made its attack. Tissot, the French writer, would have traced the proximate cause to uxoriousness, but that's all “mihi, beate Martine.” Having long been intimate with his excellent parents, friendship gave an impulse to my personal exertions. The medical department was intrusted to more skilful hands. As etiquette, however, was completely set aside, and as we well understood each other's motives, I was invited to join the consultation. In point of severity the symptoms were of the most extreme character. The pains in the thoracic region and the bounding pulse, I think exceeded all I ever witnessed.—Bleeding of course relieved, and it was quickly repeated. The relatives were, however, averse to any further evacuation by the lancet, and we were compelled to content ourselves with cupping and leeching. During this period, the impression made upon the pulse was not at all cognisable, proving, I presume, that the stated number of ounces (thirty-four, which alarmed the parties) ought not to be any guide to the medical treatment, but the influence made upon the arterial system. The medical men concurred with me, that more should be drawn off, and I was deputed to suggest it, but in vain. On the fifth day, he died. Could we have been favoured with post mortem examination, there might have been exhibited to view an ample reason for our failure. Nevertheless, I shall



never be dissuaded from the idea that the very valuable life of Mr. S—— might have been protracted, could the evacuations have been followed up *ad deliquium*. As a dernier resort, possibly ptyalism might have been somewhat available.

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## CARBUNCLE.

Mr. B——, of Bow-lane, ætatis 50, has been a patient of mine during the last twenty-five years. He has a short neck, and is bulky, so as to resemble a puncheon in shape, (whence we say, I presume, a punchey fellow.) He is temperate in fluids, but intemperate in solids, particularly those of the most savory kind. This son of Momus was such an extravagant admirer of “Napolcon the Great” murderer, that we often disputed; and finally the dispute ran so high, that I was not applied to on the last occasion he had for surgical interference. A carbuncle generated in the usual position amongst the muscles of the lower part of the neck—a very probable occurrence with such a surcharged system as his, which always resembled a little steam engine, rather than an active and lively machine. The surgeon called in was of the first rank for science and talent. He preferred, however, cutting through the diseased mass, according to the old plan. Sphacelus supervened, and death, before I was aware even of indispo-



sition. I have seen no ill effects resulting from suffering the pus to escape in a more gradual manner; and think, upon comparing notes and exchanging conversation with the medical world, (for whom I have an increasing veneration) that the mild plan of treatment has now for the most part superseded the old stimulating process. Hitherto there have been differences of opinion; and probably different habits and temperaments may demand different modes of treatment. Could my quondam friend have been reasoned into comparative abstinence, he might probably have protracted his existence to the period assigned to fallible man, namely, threescore years and ten.

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## CATAMENIA CUM DOLORE.

Miss P—, of Mansion-house-street, from the age of 17 to 20, menstruated with unusual pain, which, however, was always relieved by chalybeates. At the latter period she married; after which the catamenial were supplanted by uterine pains, and continued so for four years, returning every sixteen months. During this time she was completely free from the original pains.

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## CATAMENIA SUPPRESSED.

Miss F—, of Limehouse, ætatis 20, had suppressed catamenia during the period of seven

months. She was a delicate subject from infancy, and had been reared up under unceasing vigilance. The catamenia were of a dark, unhealthy appearance, and in small quantity, from the age of 15. There was no assignable reason for their total cessation. I asked her, "Had you ever a fright?" "Yes, Sir; nine months ago." "What, while you were unwell?" "Yes." "And you have had no exhibition since?" "None: my medical confidant bled me. I wish he had been confined with a fit of the gout." "What appearance did the blood assume?" "A dark colour." "With your delicate pulse and *tout ensemble*, I should prescribe the Carbonate of Iron." "Bleeding was proposed to relieve the pain in the head; but not answering the purpose, I have called on you." "Put this pulse glass in your hand, and grasp it. Why, my child, the circulation scarcely moves. If you lose more blood, don't call on me again, I shall be able to render you no service." The carbonate quickly cured her.

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CASE OF CEREBRAL INFLAMMATION SUCCESSFULLY TREATED  
BY LEECHES.

[From the *London Medical and Physical Journal*, 1819.]

The circumstance now to be detailed would not have been deemed worthy of notice, but for the peculiar stress laid upon topical applications to the base of the cranium and the nape of the neck, by

Dr. Porter of Bristol. Master E. F——, of Friday-street, ætatis 4, had laboured under ardent fever for several days before I saw him. By the parents, his disease was thought to be simply dentition; and I believe I should not have been called in, at that period, had not another of the household been under my care. Upon inspection, however, I found most terrific symptoms, viz. a pulse full and throbbing, (the peculiar characteristic of cerebral inflammation,) face deeply and generally flushed, head excessively hot, great sensibility to noise, light &c. My communication to the parents was unfavourable. I conceived it disputable, whether the disease had not arrived at the incurable point of effusion, insomuch that I was hesitating on the use of means, anticipating a fatal issue; and from the rigor of the depletory measures necessary to be resorted to, I feared lest I should be reflected upon as having hastened dissolution. This difficulty having been got rid of, I advised several leeches to be applied to the temples, which bled for fourteen or sixteen hours. I may mention that this method had succeeded in another case a few months prior to the present. I added Pulv. Antimon. and Calomel very largely, and great relief was quickly visible. On the third day after, the symptoms showed themselves with their original violence; but the application of leeches again to the temples served every purpose, and convalescence rapidly followed.

*A peculiar fulness of the Arterial system, cognisable under*

## CEREBRAL INFLAMMATION.

Although, on this subject, I can obtain so little coincidence in sympathy and feeling among my medical associates, I cannot consent to abandon it as wholly untenable. Fact is proof positive, *sui generis*, and not limited to sense. Seeing is believing, is a paradoxical outrage. The brain, under compression from the surcharged fluid, enveloped by an unyielding bone, necessarily excites high arterial action, (when no spontaneous relief is afforded,) in consequence of resisting the oppressive weight by stirring up a general alarm: "The citadel is in danger." Relief, if prompt, must be decisive: it is the alpha and omega. "'Tis surprising," as Mr. André, that sagacious surgeon, observes, "to witness the loss of blood which the diseased parties will endure when the head is affected, and with the very best effects." In the incipient stage of hydrocephalus, it appears to me that this is the very first indication; and I presume if promptly attended to, we should have but few instances of effusion into the ventricles. Children, at the commencement of this disease, while in the act of dozing, will intuitively put their hands to the head, and commonly to the temples, as if to remind the vigilant practitioner of the identical spot where relief is attainable. I reckon that

the seasonable application of leeches about those regions has saved the lives of a host of pleasant plants to their endeared connexions. I cannot withhold my opinion that the temples are to be in this respect preferred to the cerebellum, whatever the post mortem examinations may evince. In injuries from blows, under certain circumstances, threatening apoplexy, &c. the lancet affords instant and permanent relief.

I have known between seventy and eighty ounces of blood taken in phrenitis, from a patient *ætatis* 40, and the party recovered; which probably would not have been the case, had the practitioner been content with a smaller quantity.

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#### CHLOROSIS

Is a disease occasionally very untractable. Though, in the beginning of my practice, I was flushed with the confidence of success, coming, as I did, from under Dr. William Saunders and others, at the Borough Hospitals, whose united testimony was in favour of the Carbonate of Iron, as being as certain in its operation, in Chlorosis, as Cinchona in Intermittent. In following this collective guidance, I moved on for a few years with success. At length I met with a case, that of a young female, *ætatis* 18, which baffled all my exertions. For some months I lost sight of my young patient, when



by chance I met the mother, who accosted me, "O, Sir! we have brought them down at last." "Ah, I'm glad to hear it: by what means?" "Why, our washerwoman undertook to cure her, by giving her as much powdered salt of iron as would lie upon a sixpence, which soon accomplished the business." "Did not such a dose distress the stomach?" "No, not all." Had I known that the stomach would have borne such a dose, I should not have needed to be so very scrupulous about grains of the same remedy. The empiric, however, was more successful than the regular practitioner, and I was glad to add to instead of detracting from her laurels. I never could feel satisfied, as in most other cases, with Dr. Lettsom, in abstracting blood in Chlorosis: as the blood drawn is, in this disease, usually destitute of firm crassamentum, I think it at least a hazardous mode of relief. A few weeks since, a chlorotic patient called upon me, accompanied by her anxious mother. She had fallen into a service where exteme harshness had been used towards her. Some mistresses, indeed, demand late sitting up, early rising, and incessant laborious exertions on the part of their domestics. Nothing can exculpate those who adopt such conduct from constructive murder, in the eye of the moral law—that unalterable code for the human race. In the case of my patient, there was nothing unusual in the character of the symptoms, except a bounding

pulse; and I paused for a few seconds before I could determine on the propriety of venesection. As I had never been satisfied, however, with the necessity or propriety of such a method, I determined to give my usual dose of the Carbonate of Iron, once or twice a-day, mixed with a paste of moist sugar and vinegar, as a medium least likely to excite nausea. In a week the pulse was reduced, exercise was not so burdensome, and by a little perseverance the catamenia flowed, and she could go up stairs swiftly, and without difficulty.

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A FATAL CASE OF CHOLERA MORBUS, ATTENDED WITH  
EXTRAORDINARY RAPIDITY.

Mr. J—— jun., of Thames-street, was attacked with violence on the evening of July 12, 1822, without the slightest previous indication of disease. He made an attempt to reach my residence, but was not equal to the exertion, and satisfied himself with sending a messenger. I was at Kennington, and my domestic agent, on most occasions remarkable for punctuality, in this instance failed (for who is perfect?) to inform me, and I was not apprized of the event till seven o'clock the following morning, when I received a second summons. I found Mr. J. with a feeble and frequent pulse, furred tongue, inflamed eyes,

fixed pain about the temples, but no fulness or pain about the abdominal region. I learned that the stomach and bowels had been copiously acted upon, the evacuations being attended with violent pains, until three o'clock, accompanied by an immoderate thirst for water. I was struck with the uncommon character of the symptoms, and saw him again at nine. He was now more restless; and I expressed my alarm to the parents. At eleven, I was summoned by two messengers in rapid succession, when I found him in articulo mortis. The parties were successful enough to obtain Dr. Babington, who made a great sacrifice to accompany the messenger, but my patient had expired just previous to his arrival. The suddenness of the event gave Dr. B. reason to fear that some deleterious matter had been accidentally swallowed. Upon the demise of the party, I inquired whether uncommon violence had occurred during the action of vomiting, apprehending that a blood vessel might have given way internally, or the stomach might have been ruptured, as I think I have seen occur in another case. On the succeeding morning (Sunday) we all assembled with Mr. Comson, a skilful metropolitan practitioner, who kindly rendered us his important assistance, in ascertaining the cause of Mr. J.'s death.

The post mortem examination exhibited inflammation, commencing with the ilium and running through the chief portion of the jejunum, with an

increased degree of severity. About the centre of the inflamed parts, the intestine was studded with some dark substance deposited on the inner coat, which appeared like sections of black currants. With the view of testing the contents, ligatures were made at the cardiac and pyloric portions of the stomach, and at portions of the bowels marked by extreme inflammation, where gangrene seemed to have commenced. The *viæ humidæ* and *siccæ* were very accurately put to the test, and not the smallest vestige of any poison could be detected; and we were compelled to conclude that the disease had run its destructive career, according to all our testimony, with unprecedented rapidity.

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#### A FATAL EXPOSURE TO COLD.

A Lady returning, several years ago, from a crowded and heated church, Jan. 1st., the transition from heat to cold was so sudden, and aggravated by exposure while engaged in conversation at the doors of the sanctuary, that the most menacing symptoms followed. The prominent peculiarity was a feeble and frequent pulse, which prohibited the use of the lancet. Saline draughts, aperients, and the usual appendages to the antiphlogistic regimen, were of course the order of the day. But as the disease continued to make formidable advances, contemptuously setting at de-



fiance all my exertions, Mr. H——, the husband of my patient (who had just retired from business, with a realized capital of 100,000*l.*) proposed calling in Dr. Saunders and his neighbour Dr. Relph, whose arrival was as punctual as if they had been pupilaged by Dr. Lettsom. I had arrived half an hour previously, to meet promptly every necessary inquiry. My patient, smiling, observed, “My good friend, I know what my new doctors will prescribe.” “Say you so?” “Yes, they will make me drink two glasses of Madeira, and to-morrow I shall die.” By this time, the sonorous roar in the hall announced their punctuality,—the soul and life of business. The M.D.s approaching with courteous politeness, the patient smiling with joyous hope, it was a highly interesting scene. The latter, breaking silence, told them the number of beats in the pulse, which I had just informed her at her particular request. “O!” said they, “what can you know of the pulse? Pray remove that watch from over her head. Come, take this glass of wine (the Madeira standing conveniently.) Pour her out another, and let us divert her attention.” In consultation it was deemed expedient to renew the visit, unless the party were in articulo mortis, which indeed was the case; and on the subsequent day she died,



## VIOLENT EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO COLD.

Mr. William Stratton, the ingenious engineer of the London Docks, was compelled to sit on the outside of a coach for two hours, on a journey of business, in cold weather. Pain in the knee (the part particularly exposed) supervened, for which local remedies appeared useful for a time; but he relapsed with extreme pain, and incapability of extending the limb. Leeches and blistering, with unusual perseverance, afforded gradual relief. A threatening of ankylosis succeeded: the routine of local applications were resorted to, both cold and hot, sedative and stimulant; poultices and bandages alternately, and finally the Unguent. Hydrarg. The space of four months elapsed before the party could fully resume his important occupation.—This gentleman's daughter, ten years ago, laboured under an inflamed acetabulum, owing to a fall, requiring constant and extensive vesication for six weeks, which appeared to prevent the calamity of a short leg for life. During the early part of the process, by pressure, there was distinctly to be felt a crepitus, implying a denuded portion of cartilage upon the head of the femur.

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## EFFECT OF EXPOSURE TO COLD.

Not a great while ago, at a boarding-school, where authority was lodged in the hands of a dig-

nified dame, the younger pupils, on getting out of bed, agreed to have a dance, in consequence of the general joy that at an early day they would return home. The unceremonious mirth and dancing of the young ladies awoke the governess, who slept underneath. She ran up stairs, and shut them all up for two hours in a room with no other apparel than their chemises. On setting the innocent girls at liberty, one young lady stated herself to be unwell, and requested to be sent home. She was placed under the care of Dr. L——, who narrated to me the tragical circumstance. Fever supervened, and increased, setting at defiance all remedial measures: it at length degenerated into typhus; and ultimately the patient died.

“ Better is the patient in spirit than the proud in spirit.”

“ He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.”—PROVERBS.

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#### ABLUTION WITH COLD WATER.

As my venerable master was accustomed to wash his hands with soap and warm water for the purpose of deterging the skin from ichorous, fæculent, and putrid matter, after examining sores, &c. I followed his example for many years; but by increased experience I perceived the peculiar character of annoyance remained with its characteristic

fœtor for several succeeding hours. This circumstance may possibly arise from the effect of heat rendering the skin somewhat porous, and necessarily subjecting it to imbibe the noxious matter, which cannot escape but by an impulse of the *vis a tergo*. Many a time I have substituted the fork for the finger at table owing to this circumstance: "thoughts lead to actions." Fifteen years ago, I commenced with cold water under this impression; and by its means, I never fail to divest myself of every annoying particle of however disgusting and concentrated a character. Not long ago, Mr. C——, a rising luminary, who assisted me in opening and sewing up a case of cholera morbus, was lamenting the circumstance, that his hands would, after the performance of such an operation, emit a disagreeable effluvia all the day. My reply was, I am glad you have not immersed your hands in warm water, try the cold, as I have done for a long time. Upon wiping them, he was surprised to find not a vestige of fœtor, so far as discernible by the olfactory nerves.

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ON THE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF COLD WATER TO A SCALD.

My little Boy, in running out of one room into another, came in contact unexpectedly and violently with the lad bringing in his hand the tea-kettle full of boiling water. He received so considerable a portion of it upon his chest, as to excite no com-

mon degree of alarm in my domestic and delightful circle. (*Domus et placens uxor.* HOR.) Not having been captivated by the eloquence and plausible reasonings of Dr. Kinglake, (whose predilection for stimuli we are well aware of, and of the destructive results of which I fear I have been too tame a spectator,) I instantly had recourse to cold water, which was continually renewed. Unfortunately, I was compelled to quit my patient at home for one abroad, confiding in the valuable attentions of endeared connexions. On my return, after the lapse of two hours, I had the inexpressible pleasure of finding him fast asleep, from which he arose as usual in the morning, with scarce a traceable vestige of the scald of the preceding evening.

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## CONCUSSION OF THE BRAIN.

*A Case exhibiting the fatal effects of withholding the Lancet.*

Mr. Toft, a gentleman in the meridian of his corporeal and mental faculties, with which nature had endowed him in a more than usual proportion, was thrown out of his gig with considerable violence, and fell directly upon the back of his head. The event occurring a few miles out of town, I was not apprised of the circumstance until a few weeks had elapsed. The medical gentleman who had been called in, refused to bleed, contenting himself with remedies less potent. On the return of Mr. T,



to town, I was much struck by the idiotic appearance of his countenance, as it formed such a solemn contrast to his former looks. As his pulse, however, possessed some degree of vigour, I considered (if any means were capable of relieving him) that bleeding would have that effect. The blood did not exhibit an inflammatory character; and as the relief was scarcely sensible, the evacuation was repeated, but the countenance did not pourtray the smallest improvement. I could not help expressing my regret that the favourable opportunity was irrecoverably lost; I was compelled to abandon all efficient remedial measures; and in three months death closed the scene under fever of a typhoid character.

Messrs. George Young and Comson were kind enough to render their important professional aid in post mortem dissection; which exhibited universal inflammation throughout the membranes and substance of the brain; at the cerebellum in particular, where the injury was inflicted, there was a deposit of yellow serum amounting to nearly a pint, and a considerable portion of a similar fluid issued from the spinal canal. Mr. G. Y. exclaimed "Here is enough of mischief to destroy twenty men."

I am aware that we ought to be jealous of medical reputation, since the healing art is not arrived at its acmé; yet I cannot help thinking that this useful character (known in all our large breweries



and distilleries as no common acquisition) might have been spared to his family and social circle, had the depletory plan been fully acted upon according to the improved treatment in such cases. It is well observed, that "life is a sacred thing," and the highest authority assures us that "all a man hath will he give for his life."

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## CONCUSSIONS OF THE HEAD.

It is alleged by very grave authorities, that under some circumstances, copious bleeding with the lancet will be as destructive as the sword. Many a time I have been grieved to witness the unseemly dictation of the sympathizing multitude, placing the medical man (if not of strong nerve) in a most embarrassing situation. It ought to be conceded that the daily practitioner is the best judge; or as Dr. B. facetiously writes, "every pig to his own sty," or in less offensive phraseology, "to every man his own work." I am quite satisfied to bear the obloquy of ignorance and supineness, so that I can but save the life of a fellow creature. The rescue of an unhappy female at Paul's Wharf, some years ago, has cheered my heart more than would all the praises of the papistical host. Granted that life is extinct, my dear-bought firmness may lay a foundation for the successful effort on some subsequent occasion. The mind of man is capable

of continued advances towards perfection : we all acquire it in some degree by dint of labour and “sweat of brain.” Ex. gr.—A severe blow has been inflicted on the head; and the injured party is stunned and stupified; while the radical artery beats feebly. A timid practitioner—fearful of asserting his right of judgment, and overawed possibly by some Scotch lord, (as I once was, and snapped my finger and thumb at him for his haughty rudeness,) is tempted to open a vein. The blood (such are the wonderful resources of nature) refuses to flow! But if the vital stream succeed the murderous lancet, woe to the patient. I rather pause; keep the finger on the artery till it acquires tone; administer a little cordial; the tide will rise, and at its height if you withhold the lancet, woe to the patient.

We all condemn, and justly so, the temporizing wretch of a magistrate, Pontius Pilate, and yet we indireetly eopy his example. About two years ago, I saw so great an advantage resulting from the delay of two or three hours before the lancet was applied, that it has indelibly established this point with me.

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#### CONSTIPATION

Is a disease for the most part peculiar to the female. The capaciousness of the pelvis, and the sensibility of British delicacy, serve together to

foster and promote it ; and it often requires a manual operation and much perseverance to unload the rectum. Nay, it has been occasionally ruptured under the operation of the instrument generally employed, viz. either the small end of a table spoon, or a marrow-bone spoon. It is, however, often more discouraging than dangerous. Dr. Walshman, the venerable and amiable labourer in the southern satellite of the metropolis (Kennington), has recently mentioned, in the Medical Society, a case of constipation in which his opinion was requested : and, on examination, he could distinctly feel, through the parietes of the abdomen, the colon, &c. gorged with fæculent matter, inso-much that he prognosticated no very sanguine expectations of success, and the party soon afterwards expired. Post mortem examination exhibited to view the whole intestinal canal distended so completely (to use his own words) “as to resemble in shape and size the fæces which escape from the horse.” This good lady, as the Doctor observed, was lost through her own most palpable imprudence.

A parochial character of the first importance, north of St. Paul’s, was recently rescued from typhus gravior ; first, by moderate depletion in the incipient stage ; secondly, by an interregal pause or suspense, as Dr. Saunders used to advise, calling it “ lying on our oars ;” and thirdly, by moderate stimuli, very gradually augmented. On arriving

at convalescence, and acquiring a relish for food, constipation annoyed him considerably. Castor oil failing, enemata being almost impracticable by reason of mechanical resistance, the introduction of a small candle, as a rectum bougie, served for every purpose. The pains and pressure of bearing down were very similar to the intense paroxysms in the softer sex. I am informed that this dernier resort is now become quite familiar with the nurses in our public hospitals. From infancy to manhood, small pieces of tallow may very efficiently be introduced up the rectum, or a suppository may be tried, which will supersede the necessity for the employment of purgatives.

The bowels will necessarily be torpid under two periods into which married females are occasionally introduced, viz. during pregnancy and lactation. Nature being called into actions of a superior order, has not usually resources enabling her to support the accustomed proportion of blood to the bowels, requiring of course the aid of mild and varied aperients, the importance of due attention to which we are all convinced of.

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#### ON OPAQUE CORNEA.

Although not an oculist, in the particular sense of the word, yet having heard courses of lectures under Mr. Cline, on that important organ the eye; and having had some practical experience, I feel



satisfied that opacities are occasionally the result of nature's dernier resource under inflammation unsubdued and neglected on the part of the patient, or under inefficient means employed by the practitioner.

At the commencement of inflammation of the eye, I conceive it to be perfectly legitimate practice to detract blood, and subsequently to have recourse to leeching, if this desirable period should have passed by. After a given space of time, the uncharged vessels have (by not being opened) exhausted the capabilities of their minute muscles, which we believe have their existence in those parts. A state of collapse now commencing, the vessels yielding to an additional volume of blood, through the want of sufficient energy, and in this case the use of stimulants appears to be attended with the happiest effect. I am at a loss to know which has the preference—Unguent. Citrin. or Tinet. Opii. I am always reluctant to use copious bleeding, unless the patient be athletic; believing it to be, in many instances, a useless waste of the vital fluid, and an exposure of the party occasionally to phthisis, or at least to unnecessary debility. I always caution my ophthalmic patients not to apply leeches to the inner canthus, because, twenty years ago, Mr. M——, of Finsbury, injudiciously employed a large one upon that part, which, puncturing the lachrymal sac, has entailed upon him an incurable fistula.



## CORN'S SELF-PROCURED.

Where sandals are worn, corns are unknown. The little prominences created by tight shoes generate a cuticular defence; but forming upon a delicate and exquisitely sensible theia, it renders their removal absolutely necessary: and an operation must be occasionally performed, in many instances throughout the residue of life. Nature never intended that confinement of the feet and toes, to which we are all, more or less, addicted. There are not fewer than nine muscles apportioned to each great toe (whence its value and importance), and the same to each thumb. It is pleasant to see the infant toes active without absurd restraints. The horny cuticle, however, may always be preserved tolerably easy while covered by soft diachylon.

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## COUP DE SOLEIL.

The late Mr. Weston, of Shoreditch, of pious and benevolent memory, is said to have been smitten by a sun-beam, one sultry afternoon, while talking at his western door, without his hat, to a patient on horseback. Fever quickly supervened, and death followed; leaving a populous community in that vicinity to lament the loss of one whose humane attentions have embalmed him in their grateful memories.

Mrs. H., of Smithfield, while conversing with a customer without her bonnet, during a very hot summer's afternoon, at her western door, suddenly screamed, and immediately ran in doors, describing the sensation to be as if a red-hot knitting-needle had been violently thrust into her brain. Upon my arrival, she informed me that, according to her conception, it seemed to be about three inches deep. I had the part immediately shaved, and plenteously studded with leeches; and, by the time they had ceased to bleed, she was considerably relieved. After a few repetitions, my patient was completely freed from all distressing symptoms, and has continued so to the present period.

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## THE CROUP.

Whether, as Dr. H. Blegborough says, Calomel has a solvent property over membranes generated by disease, is difficult to ascertain. In proof of the doctrine, I was the delighted witness of an individual instance, in which the patient was preserved by that valuable remedy alone. The subject was a strong child; the character of the symptoms were most menacing; but all succumbed under the use of Submur. Hydrarg. gr. x. omni horâ. This prodigious quantity only acted gently on the bowels and on the trachea as a solvent. The party is now a remarkably robust young man. Nevertheless, from the testimony of others, I

should not feel myself fully justified in placing such absolute reliance on calomel alone, on any future occasion. There might have been something peculiar in that case, since it yielded so readily that scarcely a vestige of the disease remained by the end of the second day. Henceforth, I shall prefer the orifices made by leeches kept continually flowing by successive applications, and keeping up constant nausea by Tartrite of Antimony.

Twelve or fourteen years ago, the Medical Society at Bolt Court were applied to, from some Continental practitioners, requesting information as to the best mode of treating this untractable malady. The applicants added the solemn and sufficient reason, that "every case which had recently occurred had terminated fatally." We are informed, that during the north-easterly winds, in some parts of the year, the children residing upon the eastern shores of Scotland are very susceptible of an aggravated form of this disease.

The croup is one of the most untractable maladies "which flesh is heir to." Post mortem examination exhibits, for the most part, an interminable layer of suffocating membrane, secreted by disease, stratum super stratum; but as our motto is "*Nil desperandum*," during the awful suspense we must attempt something. When the pulse will admit of it, perhaps bleeding generally, *ad deliquium*, will be a useful preliminary. I have succeeded in one case of a most robust boy, ætatis

eight, a class of subjects who appear to be the most susceptible of this peculiar affection. The method of cure adopted was by leeches and vesication: but the chief source of hope was placed in supporting an unceasing nausea, by tartarized antimony given in minute doses, until respiration became less laborious. Subsequent cases, unequivocally marked, were treated by Hydrarg. Submur. in large doses, which that acute and energetic practitioner from the north considered a solvent of the secreted membrane. From a successful case, which occurred to me under this treatment, in which Submur. Hydrarg. scr. i. per diem, for three days, was exhibited, I flatter myself there is some truth in the theory.

Dr. Lettsom had a case of a young lady in Cornhill, æt. seventeen, under his care a few years ago, in which the patient, while enduring the agonizing paroxysms, and unable to articulate, pointed continually to one part of the trachea with her finger. After death, that identical spot was surrounded by very limited inflammation. The circumstance occasioned a deep regret in the minds of all the medical attendants, that there had not been a lancet pushed through the trachea, to afford to the party a chance of recovery.



## A CASE IN WHICH NO DANGER WAS APPREHENDED.

Mr. —, who had declined business, calculating on the sweets of leisure, but having made no provision for mental sustenance and social satisfaction, along with his accumulated wealth, found an aching void in retirement. Nay, under such circumstances, our apprehensions as to suicide are sometimes not without just grounds; so true is that scripture: "All things work." This wealthy citizen—(O! could it have been said, *Otium cum dignitate*,)—laboured under ennui, low spirits, &c. from which nothing could elevate him, and he was afflicted besides with loss of sleep, appetite, &c. At length it was suggested, that a Bacchanalian party would raise his drooping spirits; the scheme was approved; the jovial bumpers circulated pretty quickly; the patient was supported in his arm-chair to participate as much as possible in the hilarity; but he was unable to join in the pleasures of the table. One gentleman, more sober than the rest, whispered in a corner of the noisy room to the liberal hostess, who was quite intent upon accomplishing the experiment, "Your husband, Madam, appears to me to be very unwell; I think you will not do your duty fully without calling in some physician." Dr. Lett-som was instantly summoned, who told me he felt the pulse, and by his countenance intimated that he probably would not survive twelve hours, and



if his death took place, he begged he might be informed of it by ten A. M. The messenger arrived before the appointed period, announcing that Mr. — was no more.

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## DEAFNESS.

Aurists are in the daily habit of applying to the meatus externus a few drops of Aq. Ammon. Aretat. with the view of dissolving the inspissated cerumen, and by such a medium as may possess soluble properties without exposing the party to injury from aqueous applications, which I think I have occasionally seen make the patient worse, rather than better. The few cases in which I have used it have been attended with more success than I had anticipated. When the deafness arises from disease within the tympanum, I advise the parties to consult those who appropriate all their powers to an individual malady, from an idea that more correctness and expertness are obtained under such circumstances. Mrs. C——, the wife of a cashier, sought, about fourteen or sixteen years ago, the aid of a metropolitan luminary, who punctured the tympanum and subsequently introduced the Nitrate of Silver, to preserve the new-formed opening pervious. The delicate membrane became inflamed, and the inflammation spreading, communicated to the

brain, and the patient consequently “died—rather of the doctor than the disease.”

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DEATH PRIOR TO DELIVERY

Occurred in the person of a small subject, not deformed. Post mortem examination exhibited to view an extraneous steatomatous tumor, deriving its origin from the sacrum, mechanically presenting an insurmountable obstacle to her delivery.

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UNEXPECTED DEATH SUBSEQUENT TO DELIVERY.

Mrs. —, wife of a coal merchant of Doctors' Commons, requested my professional aid in her expected accouchement. She was about *æt.* 40. The labour was tedious; but with the usual presentation. On account of the delay, through the inefficiency of the uterine efforts, Dr. Squires was requested to render his important assistance. The patient continued to declare that the infant was alive: we were likewise of this opinion, and, after the lapse of five hours more, the expulsion was complete without instrumental aid; but the child appeared to have been dead several hours prior to the period at which the mother affirmed it was alive. It is generally conceded that the practitioner is able to determine this point under the usual presentation; but in this instance it was am-

biguous, and when we considered that there was a firm pulse, we anticipated a favourable issue. About five hours however after delivery, though there had been no material hemorrhage, she became restless, with suffused discoloration through the skin, and soon expired, in consequence, I apprehend, of sphacelation communicated from the child. From so lamentable an occurrence, it has often been suggested to my mind, during seventeen years' reflection, that the root might have been spared by the earlier removal of the branch.

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DEATH SUBSEQUENT TO DELIVERY, FROM THE MISTAKEN  
KINDNESS OF A RELATIVE.

Mrs. A——, æt. 22, of Doctors' Commons, about ten years ago was delivered of her second child under favourable circumstances, no symptom of an unusual character showing itself. On the third day after, appeared the commencement of what is called the milk fever, which as usual required nothing but gentle aperients and cooling diluents, with the positive prohibition of an atom of solid food. Having had occasion to leave town for a few hours, I was, after my return in the evening, quickly summoned to see my patient, whom I found in a state of great agitation, and under such circumstances as I never witnessed before nor since, with a thrilling and soft pulse of 140. On retiring to an anti-room, I expressed excessive

surprise, and inquired what could have taken place since my morning visit. I was then informed that the patient's sister had called in the forenoon, just after my departure, with a fowl, which she insisted upon her tasting, notwithstanding my prohibitory mandate; and I further learned that she had eaten the whole, (I presume it must have been a small one), and to use the phrase of the torpid Nurse, "she both picked the bones, and swallowed a pint of porter." I felt very indignant at this impertinent interference, and from such a pulse I prognosticated dissolution would be the certain consequence. We had the valuable aid of Dr. Birkbeck, that brilliant star in our metropolitan horizon, whose skill and attention were put forth in behalf of my suffering patient for the space of nine days; but, as I had foretold, death closed the scene.

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## DELIRIUM TREMENS.

A gentleman, *ætat.* 25, moving in the higher walks of life, who had degraded himself by the continued disgusting habit of dram-drinking, became suddenly delirious and ungovernable. The pulse was frequent and feeble, the eyes red and ferretty, the face flushed. Five of the first practitioners in town thought the use of the lancet was not justifiable: at the end of the fourth day he died. Seven hours afterwards, an examination



the most minute, for four hours duration, took place. To the utter astonishment of all present, there was wanting the usual appearance of blood traceable in the healthy brain. It was literally blanched and white throughout; there were no arborescent vessels discernible; and such an exemption from ordinary interstitial fluid as to leave the diseased organ destitute of moisture.

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#### DIARRHŒA

Is, for the most part, a salubrious action which nature sets up, and I seldom interfere when called upon, generally congratulating the parties with their having probably escaped an approaching fever, which this necessary evacuation is by anticipation preventing. My only prescription is, "Be thankful, and let it pass away spontaneously, and recruit exhausted nature by fluids only, such as tea, wine, broth, &c. without the smallest particle of solid." We are sure to have a redundancy of fruit in the summer months, through the mischievous activity of the Israelitish vagabonds about the vicinity of town; and, though it may serve a healthy purpose to our *primæ viæ*, it will occasionally establish in those digestive organs a fermentative process. During my apprenticeship, we uniformly employed the Cretaceous Mixture. It does not however appear to be the *sine quâ non* with the Town practitioners. The chief system is



to rely upon the circuitous operations of purgatives, principally Rhubarb, for carrying off the dislodged matter, while the diseased fermentation continues in full force, annoying the patient with pinching pain at intervals (like labour,) and subsequent evacuations of a scalding character. The truth is, a sharp, corroding ichor is generated, giving rise to all the distressing symptoms; but this is immediatly neutralized by coming into contact with absorbent Creta.

A young lady had recently been thus harassed by a variety of purgatives for three days, from the notion that no other remedy could be available. When the anxious parents called upon me, I explained to them the nature of the complaint, prescribing Cret. ppt. one drachm, desiring them to give it immediatly in a glass of cold milk. A few hours afterwards I called, and found her, as I had anticipated, free from all pain. She had no sooner swallowed it, than the pain ceased altogether, and returned no more. The process of fermentation was immediately checked by chemical laws universally recognised, and, consequently, "the cause being removed, the effect ceased."

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#### DIABETES

Is a disease so intractable as hitherto to elude all human sagacity, unless the late suggestion,

which refers the disease to the digestive organs, shall prove correct, upon trial. Dr. Wm. Saunders's lectures on the subject tended to confirm the fact of our ignorance respecting the diseased *primum mobile*. About fourteen years ago, Mrs. H——, the wife of an attorney, was placed under my care, labouring under diabetes mellitus. Aware that our remedial resources were still occult,—a fact established by the confessions of the oldest practitioners of the day, who have repeatedly assured me in succession, that it must be classed amongst incurable diseases, inasmuch as its presence indicates the rapid and inevitable breaking up of the constitution,—I could not be very sanguine as to the recovery of this delicate lady. She was so tormented with thirst, that I allowed her to take fluids moderately, although it is contrary to established rules, having seen the good effects in innumerable instances of indulging dropsical patients with unrestricted drinks. The utmost aim of the plan I embraced extended to the palliative rather than to curative measures. In process of time, Mr. H., the anxious husband, suggested an additional opinion, and mentioned Dr. B——. Certainly there is no gentleman in the city I should prefer to my excellent preceptor. On consulting with him, he observed “We are for the most part agreed in our opinions on the subject and treatment of disease; but in this case, my dear fellow, I shall take the liberty of departing from

the law of custom." "Certainly," said I, "Doctor, I am come to my soundings, and shall be most happy in transferring the onus to your responsible shoulders." "I shall advise her," said he, "to take but two sparing half pints per diem, and will meet you again on Saturday, I know you are not fond of Sunday visits." The symptoms continued nearly as usual, except that the thirst was more harassing. On the Friday, alarming symptoms supervened, and carried her off on the eve of that day.

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Not long subsequent to the above event, the Rev. Wm. Goode, travelling in the Norwich Mail, upon a missionary excursion, caught a severe cold, which he attributed rather to a small orifice at the bottom of the vehicle, than to sitting up all night. The symptoms of diabetes commenced from that period. Mr. P——, an occidental luminary, put forth his prodigious powers on his behalf. I had much conversation with the good man in his parsonage garden, the favourite retreat of his venerable predecessor, Mr. Romaine. Upon inquiring what was the opinion of Mr. Pearson relative to the plan proposed by Mr. Watt, and describing it to him, he said he should be very reluctant to submit to it. Mr. Goode died; and I have regretted ever since that he had not the benefit of the trial of ptyalism under mercurial action.

Mr. John G——, ætatis twenty, of Regent Circus, spare in habit, studious and reflecting, with intellectual endowments of the highest order, about the period of eleven contracted a pneumonic seizure, for the relief of which general antiphlogistic measures were resorted to by Mr. C——. Subsequently to this, thoracic derangement was developed, with palpitation, &c. Dr. ——, conceiving the case to be incipient earditis, prescribed blood-letting and abstinence, with varied effects, for a period of five years, bringing the patient apparently to death's door. It was repeatedly thought he was actually expiring; but he afterwards rallied, and the heart affection degenerated into diabetes mellitus. The candour of Dr. —— was uncommon, in stating that he had been mistaken in the case. Dr. L—— was now called in, who, with great expectation of the good effect of tonics and chalybeates, declared the case to be only nervous, raising the expectations of the party for several months; but he was finally obliged to abandon this notion. Animal sustenance, magnesia, &c. were now introduced, to check the diabetic symptoms; but all that scientific perseverance could effect, was a transmutation from diabetes mellitus to diabetes insipidus. The slow emaciation of the muscular fibre, and of the general exterior, furnished very scanty grounds for hope of ultimate success. My occasional visits were of a religious nature. The deep student had been en-



tangled in pursuits absolutely essential to his future salvation. Amidst all, I always felt confident that a "good work had been begun;" and the sequel was unusually satisfactory, both to himself and to all the parties deeply interested in his eternal welfare.

On post mortem examination, in presence of Drs. Thomas and Wilson Philip, and two other practitioners, no vestige of disease could be traced, after the most patient investigation of three hours.

In the next case which may happen to fall into my hands, after a moderate trial of legitimate measures, I feel disposed to hope that by setting up ptyalism, the fatal issue may be suspended, if not prevented altogether.

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DISEASES, SELF PROCURED,

Abound in this delightful Metropolis; and whilst our table is spread four times per diem, medical men are certain of a redundaney of patients. We should soon complain of a paucity, if men were content, as Elijah was, with two meals daily. Nature has ready facilities to dispose of fluids, though it is not so with solids; whence it is proverbial with us, that "your two day dinner eaters dig their graves with their teeth." It is not possible while such violence is offered to the human machine, so wonderfully constructed, that it can be



endured with impunity. I am continually at war with such deliberate suicides, and often quote the example of our late excellent King, of truly blessed memory. He was content with boiled mutton, and enjoyed life; while his gluttonous subjects "lived not out half their days."

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## DYSPEPSIA

Occasionally demands my attention, in the persons of banking-house clerks and others, for whom I prescribe no medicine, considering that those characters rather require dietetic regulations. I have found, by inquiry, that the laws of those active establishments limit the period of meals to ten minutes. Now it is impracticable that mastication can be salubriously and sufficiently performed in so short a space of time, for all the purposes of nutriment; and, of course, indigestion must inevitably be the result. Until the urged parties plead for a double allowance of time, this is my only remedy. I justify my proceeding on the plea, that they have the means of relief within their own reach, and are not compelled to seek it elsewhere, especially by resorting to medical measures, while the obvious cause is not at the same time removed. If I invade the province of the medical district, I obey, with pleasurable freedom of subjection, the royal law sanctioned by James the Divine.

ON THE DIFFICULTIES AND FACILITIES ATTENDING THE  
REDUCTION OF DISLOCATIONS.

During my attendance at the Borough Hospitals in the years 1790, 1, and 2, a luxation of the humerus, backwards, I believe, and under the scapula, was brought in. The subject was an athletic man of 40, who when *peeled*, (to use a frightful term amongst pugilists), exhibited the finest specimen for the sculptor I ever beheld. The pullies were put in immediate requisition, and adjusted in the crowded theatre, surrounded by anxious aspirants, stratum super stratum. On making a little extension, the patient showed signs of uncasiness. Sir A. Cooper, then a young man, increased the extension till at length the poor man roared out prodigiously and uttered piercing cries: the resistance was extraordinary. The surgeons of both hospitals were present, and exhausted their contrivances by varying the position of the sufferer; but the pullies were the *sine quâ non*. All parties wearied and afflicted, Mr. Cline, senior, (whose patient the man was), said, "let us try him upon his back, and make the necessary extension." While preparing him to lay in this novel posture, Mr. C. put his hand upon the man's shoulder, and smiling, with an elevated chin (peculiar to himself), said, "Gentlemen, nature has accomplished what art was incapable of, and has effected the reduction completely, as soon as we ceased to act, proving that the muscles will

at all times resist in exact proportion to the extending powers applied ; not but that these extensions have been beneficial in arousing and stirring up a salutary and successful effort."

Since this period, the cases which I have had in private practice have been principally dislocations of the humerus; and I have made the observation, that the less extension there is made, the reduction is effected with the more facility. It certainly does appear paradoxical, but it is not so in reality. A formidable train of preparatory measures seems to put the menaced muscles into a posture of self-defence and disposition to oppose, sans ceremonie, force to force. Here we must tell our young sceptics, that seeing is believing. On the other hand, a certain adroitness is indispensably necessary, though it does not form a part of our surgical education from the professor's chair.

I feel considerably indebted to the late Mr. Blair, Surgeon, of pious memory, for showing us, in the medical society at Bolt-court, that by inserting the knee into the axilla, making the necessary extension with the hands, and trusting to the elevation of the knee to act as a lever, reduction can be accomplished with unusual facility. I do not at all doubt but some rusticated clowns possess the faculty which will be looked for in vain amongst some of the best educated practitioners in our envied empire.

## LUXATED HUMERUS.

A strong Bargeman was taken, with luxated humerus, into a public-house, where there were many powerful agents present to render prompt assistance. The dislocated head, as usual, lodged in the axilla, and after sufficient extension had been effected, which was considerable, (somewhat like raising an anchor), I replaced the bone, which popped into the glenoid cavity with unusual noise.

Not long after, a stout Lady slipped near Bread Street, and fell, and dislocated her shoulder, which I found in the precise situation as in the former case. "Why, my awkward lady," said I, "how came you to fall?" "You may well say awkward, but if you had stepped upon a piece of orange-peel, you might have fallen also." "Granted." The arm was, in respect of size, but little inferior to that of the princess Elizabeth. "Let us see," said I, "if we can reduce it, without the rude gaping inmates. Your daughter may be able to render all the assistance we shall require. Come, Patty, get the round-towel,—fasten the door." I placed the towel as usual about the ribs, and begged her to keep a firm position. I embraced the luxated limb, elevating my knee into the swollen axilla, which then served the purpose fully of a mechanical lever, capable of being adjusted according to the varied position of the dislocated head. Upon making a very slight extension, raising my knee in due pro-



portion, without any manifest pain the bone popped into its place before I was aware, or could have thought the extension was adequate to the purpose. Such was the facility of the reduction, that I could not help exclaiming, "This operation sometimes requires more adroit management than muscular strength."

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A HUMERAL LUXATION, OF AN UNCOMMON CHARACTER.

Mr. Saumarez narrated to the Medical Society the case of an inebriated man staggering home, who, in order to avoid falling, thrust his arm out with such violence as to dislocate the humerus from the glenoid cavity. It pierced the pectoral muscle, and protruded itself through the skin to the extent of about six inches. Mr. S—— inquired what ought to have been done under such circumstances. No reply being made, he asked, whether the general feeling of propriety would not have suggested the plan of sawing off the protruding portion of bone, and replacing the residue? A sort of hesitating reply elicited from Mr. S—— the following practice. The denuded bone with its mutilated appendages were returned into the glenoid cavity, without ankylosis supervening, and the patient (*mirabile dictu*!) recovered a tolerable degree of use of the arm.

## ALL EAT TO EXCESS.

I think the practitioner may affirm with perfect truth, that fifteen applications out of twenty are self-procured from this general cause. The instinct of the unconscious quadrupeds is by far more correct than the ratiocination of proud man. Nothing will induce even the domesticated animal to eat without an appetite; but the persuasive arguments of female eloquence, and the savoury dishes of the culinary art, will tempt poor easy man to swallow what is calculated to generate fever and premature death. We should be invincible. During my apprenticeship, neither Dr. Alderson nor his accomplished daughter, Mrs. Opie, took supper. The venerable Dr. Hamilton, a physician both for soul and body, told me, that throughout the whole of his extensive practice he had never been called out of his bed through sudden death, but he could trace it to the eating of a hearty supper. I have so long been preaching this doctrine, that some scores of my former patients seek my assistance no longer. I presume (for I never stoop to inquire), they have found that abstinence supersedes the necessity of all medicine. As Dr. R——, the facetious physician, writes, our Reformers have not done us perfect justice in their great zeal to avoid any taint of popery, as they have not enjoined one fast-day throughout the year. If we could but persuade

the community that half a day's fasting every week would soon diminish the number of our visits on occasions of disease, much would be accomplished.

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Mr. H——, of Cheapside, ætatis 60, of an aldermanic appearance, but who never had addicted himself to the habitual use of ardent spirits, having imprudently exposed himself to cold and moisture, became asthmatic. In such cases, I presume, we possess no means of cure, but must be contented with palliative measures. It was probably an effort of nature, preventing by this means a fatal metastasis to the heart or brain. It behoved him therefore patiently to endure the visitation through life, moderating it by medicine as far as possible. At a tobacconist's, where he calls occasionally, he cannot stay ten minutes in the house. On his consulting me, I replied, "Sir, I suppose the atmospheric air is so constantly impregnated with the floating narcotic effluvia as to prevent easy respiration, and, as the moralist observes of peculiar temptations, "where we cannot safely combat, we must flee." The pulse of this respectable and well informed gentleman is, like the stocks, above par, and without variation. This vigorous tone of the arterial system consequently subjects my patient to the threatenings of apoplexy. I examined him as to his general mode of life. He felt indignant at my question, supposing that it carried a painful

insinuation. "A medical man," said I, "can have no motive in such inquiries, but your personal advantage. Now, Sir, let me hear from your own lips, how you commence the daily drudgery of digestion." "Why," said he, with a strongly-marked frown upon his lengthened countenance, "do you not think that I am a glutton? I take for breakfast two rounds of toast, two eggs, and five or six cups of coffee." I was not quite prepared for such a reply, and laughed most immoderately. When I had composed myself, (my patient being a silent spectator all the time), I replied "that is pretty fair till five o'clock." "Well, and then I eat a good dinner." I really had not courage enough to inquire further what was implied by that confession. No wonder Mr. —— is obliged occasionally to submit to cupping and constantly to use aperient medicine for his bowels. Were his diet indeed almost exclusively vegetable, he might preserve them generally very correct.

A recent event has occurred which will be long deplored in the city, in the person of a *bon vivant* with whom I have enjoyed a degree of intimacy for the space of thirty years. The subject, somewhat resembling the shape of a steam-engine in contour, and kept in high action, day by day, at municipal tables, was compelled by his plethoric habits to unload occasionally; but the temptation being always urgent and irresistible, accumulation bore down the invigorating powers of nature. Ma-



deira being more pleasant to the palate than medicine, the former was preferred, the latter despised. Pneumonia supervened by hydro thorax, and resisted all remedial measures, though his demise was a matter of surprise to all parties. Had this metropolitan counsellor taken Solomon's counsel, I believe his life might have been protracted many years:—viz. "When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee, and put a knife to thy throat if thou be a man given to appetite." How many puncheon-shaped citizens dig their graves with their teeth! Ten thousand at least in the city of London alone annually!

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## EPISTAXIS.

This evacuation appears to be a salutary operation in the male subject, particularly about the periods of 15, when puberty dawns; and of 50, when procreative vigour declines. Who can form an adequate estimate of the multitudes who are by epistaxis constantly preserved from the disqualifying or fatal attacks of paralysis or apoplexy, particularly in the family of honest John Bull, who is dying in his own imagination unless his numerous household can "tuck in" at least four times per diem? Could the community be but persuaded to decline one of these meals per diem, we feel confident that the applications of patients to the practitioner would be greatly lessened. Nature has a

difficult task, to dispose of all that we cram into the stomach, particularly of solids; and the mystery is explained under our insular habits altogether, through self-procured diseases.

“Strange, that a harp of thousand strings  
Should keep in tune so long.”—WATTS.

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## ENTERITIS.

Mr. B——, of Gracechurch Street, was attacked with inflammation of the bowels, ushered in by very severe rigors. The full routine of depletory measures was put into requisition, and the symptoms yielded; but, owing to the solicitude of anxious friends, my good friend Dr. Robert Willan was requested to see him. My patient had a strong desire for cold pump water, with which I indulged him most freely; and some feared the consequences, for which reason principally Dr. W. was summoned; he had the politeness to say he should have done precisely as I had done, continuing to dose him with *Aqua pura*. Under this process he soon recovered.

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Mr. M——, of Bishopsgate Street, laboured under the same disease, and similar measures were adopted; in particular, that of swallowing pump water copiously was permitted. Mrs. M—— however said, that if her husband should die, her friends

would blame the remedy. "What is that to you and me?" said I; "present duty is our's, I should employ the same means under my own roof." This case also succeeded.

The object which the diseased party most ardently desires is seldom injurious. One of the African Missionaries ascribes his recovery from fever to a gallon of cooling drink, which he was permitted to partake of. A medical gentleman assured me, he was visited by two physicians, (Drs. Orme and Lowder), who despaired of his restoration. His wife had poured out two glasses of wine from the decanter, which was not removed. The M.D.s took leave; the lady politely accompanied them down stairs; and, although they had positively forbidden the dying patient wine, he reached the decanter, during his wife's absence, and, before her return, had contrived to empty the contents. He broke out into a profuse perspiration instantly, and convalescence soon followed.

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#### A CAUTION REQUISITE IN PLACING A DELIVERED FEMALE IN THE UPRIGHT POSTURE.

Mrs. B——, of the Borough, was delivered without any unusual circumstances, and placed in a chair, in order to have the bed comfortably adjusted. The parties engaged were fidgetly teasing, and very tardy, but at length all was satisfactorily

arranged. On coming to the patient to replace her, she was gone: the immortal spirit had irrecoverably fled. It was presumed she had fainted, and the partially-erect posture precluded the possibility of nature's restorative powers. A very intelligent matron, arguing upon the subject, replied, (not strictly anatomically, but wisely,) "If you overturn a vessel, will you not lose its contents?"

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## ERUPTIONS IN CHILDREN.

Eruptions in children tease both patients and practitioners. In the year 1793 or 4, I was in attendance with Dr. Robert Willan, in a case of phthisis, which we had to visit at Pentonville. His proposal to take me in his carriage I gladly availed myself of; and being rather before than beyond the time of appointment, he spread out to my notice the scattered paintings of a variety of eruptive diseases, some of which I could readily recognise, and others I had no knowledge of. He said he intended these coloured drawings for the public; and they have since been published. I admired the zeal and labour of the good man, and we pursued our journey, talking about the *sans culottes* in Paris. It is recorded, to the eternal honour of the Doctor, that he was a great admirer of constituted authorities, both civil and sacred. His words were, "The Goths and Vandals of former



times were perfect gentlemen, compared to the present managers in France."

Facts are only of value as they are traceable to a practical and useful end. In spite of all the concentrated researches of the scientific, we find as great difficulty in curing infantile eruptions as ever. It is even very doubtful, when a variety of means, under a variety of talents, have been successively employed, whether the disease has not worn itself away spontaneously, and whether nature would not have probably accomplished a cure sooner if she had been left to her own powers, and if debilitating measures (though from the best of motives) had not been so long continued. For my part, I have long abandoned the process of internal means, confining myself to the hot bath, and moderate attention to the *primæ viæ*. The former, upon the principle of allowing ichor to ooze into the warm water, which I think I have occasionally witnessed. I consider, indeed, that this secreted fluid, under an ill-conditioned state of skin, often gives rise to eruption.

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## ERYSIPELAS

Is one of the most insidious adversaries the medical man is called to combat with. Local ebullitions of an erysipelatous character are at times permanently subdued by perseverance in leeching; and anon, in many other instances, the same method

of cure will call the latent mischief into fuller, and occasionally into fatal operation, and possibly lay the foundation for a superstructure of erysipelatous fever, which is best distinguished by a peculiar tenderness about the epigastric region. Notwithstanding, it will be best relieved by leeching, and subsequently by vesication, along with saline purgatives. Cinchona and wine, on the contrary, (the practice of the old schools) appear to defeat nature's salutary process, and tend very tediously to protract convalescence.

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## STRICTURED ESOPHAGUS.

Mary —, ætatis 50, of the Borough, was reported to me to be labouring under a cancer in the throat. She was attended by Mr. —. My department was only to furnish her with supplies out of a treasury formed by a voluntary subscription made by the humane and sympathizing. Before my visit, I was informed that such was the difficulty of deglutition, that it required the space of two hours to satisfy nature over a humble meal at dinner, and subsequently it required three hours. Upon entering a clean apartment, in the most elevated story of a dilapidated dwelling, I was considerably gratified in witnessing the simplicity and contentment of the party: it brought to my mind the truth of the proverb which none of our

ephemeral novel-readers understand, viz. "A contented mind is a continual feast." She was extremely grateful for human beneficence, and more so for divine and gracious notice, saying,

"Why was I made to hear thy voice,  
And enter while there's room?  
While thousands make a wretched choice,  
And rather starve than come.  
'Twas the same love that spread the feast  
That sweetly forc'd us in,  
Else we had still refus'd to taste,  
And perish'd in our sin."—WATTS.

I was so absorbed in sacred delight, that "I left my water-pot by the well," and retired, forgetful of part of my errand. Without entering into detail as to the disease, I took for granted the truth of the report unexamined. The day after her death I examined the body, with her medical confidant, and upon inspecting the diseased parts, there was no commencement of cancer discoverable; but there was so great a contraction of the esophagus, enveloped by a tough ligamentous embrasure, as to leave scarcely room for the introduction of a crow's quill. This was sufficient to account for all the tediousness of deglutition. We moreover were agreed (now it was too late), that had the disease been scientifically attended to, a bougie might have protracted her life; nay, probably, if used in the incipient stage, might have actually removed all fatal advances of the disease, and finally triumphed over it.

## EXOSTOSIS.

*The Disadvantages of Consultation.*

The late Dr. Joseph Adams, of Jacobinical memory, had under his care a continental ambassador, whose case being important, he requested the aid of a second physician, wishing him, as he observed, to bear part of the onus of the responsibility. "No, Doctor," said the foreigner: "in my country, if men do want two doctors, they must always be sure to die." Dr. Adams, therefore, having no other alternative, prescribed, and succeeded; and the patient recompensed him liberally. The wisdom of inspiration, however, says, "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety;" though this is not meant to be without occasional exceptions.

More than twenty years ago, a fine young man, ætatis 21, laboured under exostosis issuing from the centre of the femur. He visited town for surgical opinion. There were present at the consultation of his case, Mr. Cline, \* \* \* \* \*, a general practitioner, and myself. After a careful and individual inspection of the case, the scientific party retired and consulted. The first-named gentleman said, "Let it alone." It brings to my mind a case of a similar nature in Leicester-square, where Mr. John Hunter was called in prior to an operation.



The case was exostosis from the scapula. Mr. Hunter withheld his sanction to the operation ; but he was outborne by other opinions, and the case terminated fatally ; and thus it was also in another case, which occurred in the Old 'Change. This case was an incompressible tumor, attended with no pain, but which, by its increase, became troublesome.

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## INFLAMED EYE.

Mrs. G——, of Doctors' Commons, applied with an inflamed eye to the late Mr. Ware, of most excellent memory, but owing to the multitude of applications, was excluded the possibility of an interview. The ophthalmic inflammation had risen so high as to menace a permanent opaque film. On applying to me, I expressed my fears that the important period for surgical efficiency had elapsed ; but as I was charged to do the utmost in my power, I commenced by leeches, the pulse not allowing the lancet. I then had recourse to vesication in the crescent form, according to my venerable master's direction, along with Citrine Ointment, and the total exclusion of light. The distressing symptoms yielded beyond all my expectations, leaving the eye in full possession of perfect vision, in about the period of ten days.

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Elizabeth ——, ætatis 9, a feeble and delicate subject, was brought for my inspection, having the

ciliary processes red with inflammation, and exuding an excoiating ichor, which had destroyed every particle of the eye-lashes. The mother had dosed her plentifully with jalap ; but I ordered her no other purgative than scooped apples. I touched the lashes with a camel-hair peneil dipped in Tinet. Opii, and gave a small portion of Citrine Ointment to be used every night, directing her to be put to bed as soon as a candle entered the room, and not suffering her to read small print, nor sew fine work. After a few weeks' trial, I was surprised to see the obvious improvement ; and I trusted that by perseverance every difficulty might be ultimately surmounted, which I little anticipated upon the first inspection of this disgusting case.

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## FACT AND THEORY.

“ A grain of fact is worth more than a pound of theory,” says a great author in the healing art, Mr. A——. When I am called to relieve an infant afflicted with pain and fever ; and, at first sight, the little innocent appearing wearied out, and dozing, with its hands upon its temples, “ Ah !” say I, “ here’s an unerring guide to the practitioner.” The practical indication of this I appreciate far above all the congregated talents of learned speculatists, and apply the proper remedy, namely, leeches. By following this plan, I find such frequent success as to justify me in fixing upon the seat of

the disease and the choice of remedies. It may be, that we are unable to trace any anastomosing connection with the superficial blood-vessels, and with those deeper seated; but the constant success attending local depletion certainly warrants us in its use.

We are completely at a loss to explain the imaginary communication from the mother to the infant in utero. The after-pains place us at an equal distance from scientific satisfaction. Again, we are unable fully to explain or comprehend why nature is incompetent to endure an overcharge of solid food subsequent to ordinary delivery; but "facts are stubborn things," and ought always to have their intrinsic weight in practice, independent of theory.

Why is a glare of white so inimical, and green so refreshing, to the retina? A thousand similar questions, which could be easily asked, should make us dumb, and should teach us patiently to follow up the information we at present possess. Till a few more stars similar to Sir H. Davy shall illumine our philosophical horizon, present duty is ours.

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#### AWFUL EFFECTS OF FEAR.

A Student of Law, on his first coming to town, entered his name in one of the Inns of Court. It was anticipated that he would rise, and shine in his

profession. He was modest and diffident in the extreme ; but possessed a full share of compactness in the brain, which is indeed a usual association. His moral habits and love of retirement led him to go to rest early, as Cowper says,

“ Early to rest makes early rising sure,  
Diseases come not, or find easy cure.”

“ One sinner,” says Solomon, “ destroyeth much good.” A fellow-student, precociously brazen, (who has attained a high elevation in the legal department,) suggested the following trick upon the smiling and harmless novice, which was instantly put into practice. One crept under his bed, and the rest, with faces besmeared with burnt cork, awoke him, each performing his part outrageously, and but too successfully. Their victim’s surprise excited no consternation till the following morning, when not meeting him at breakfast, as was expected, they all ran up to his chamber to inquire the reason. He was found covered under the clothes in a profuse perspiration, and exclaiming repeatedly, “ They are coming to take me ! ” Jokes, &c. made no impression upon him, and so serious was the injury inflicted upon his brain, that he had become partly maniacal, partly idiotic, from which state no remedial measures hitherto contrived to relieve him have made the slightest impression. This awful event occurred a little more than twenty years ago.



## FEBRIS INNOMINATA.

Mr. S——, ætatis 65, of Charter-house-square, a native of Norwich, and a very cheerful man, made light of medicine at first, and neglected his case till relief could not be afforded. About the last week of his disease, he was so impatient to be gone, saying, “it is far better to depart and be with Christ,” that I was fearful of telling him about the comparative vigour of his general system. He had been for more than twenty-five years a member of the Seventh-day Baptist Church. He used to say the Lord God had appointed the seventh to be observed as the proper Sabbath day. He once put into my hands a volume to prove the truth of his favorite sentiment. I took a hasty survey of the arguments, and returned it, saying, that although I commended the principle, yet as no human authority can set aside divine appointments, I denied the inference, and referred him to the example of the Apostles in a subsequent period of the Church. The Rev. Mr. Burnside is the pastor of the chapel—a man of piety and classical attainments of the first order. During the last two days of the mortal existence of Mr. S. it was a privilege of no common nature to bear oral and visual testimony of his undisguised and high satisfaction.

“Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright;  
for the end of that man is peace.”—PSALM 37.

## FEBRIS SYMPATHETICA.

I knew a man who swallowed, by mistake, (Dec. 4th, 1823,) a tea-spoonful of aromatic vinegar, instead of the common acetic acid. He was in high health at the time, but the effects nearly amounted to suffocation. The stomach, as if it had been intuitively aware of the possible danger, rejected a portion of the fluid instantly, and, some hours after, the residue. The sensation of heat in the epiglottis, with rapid enlargement of the parts, gave him some ground for fear, lest it should be actually separated: deglutition was absolutely impracticable. Nature's surprising resources set up an action, by secreting about a pint of fluid every hour, for seven or eight hours following, as if aware that inflammation would thereby be best counteracted. Fever, quick pulse (110), and furred tongue, quickly supervened. Deglutition, by the third day, became practicable, but was attended with extreme pain. By the end of the fourth day, a draught of cold pump water could be swallowed, and convalescence rapidly advanced, though the patient remained incapable of relishing beer, wine, &c. It is not unlikely that for the residue of his desirable days he may be associated with temperate water drinkers.

## SEAT OF FEVER.

Dr. Perceval, of Dublin, from repeated dissections, makes the following remarks as to the seat of fever:—"Pulmonic disorganization was chiefly detected in the spring; gastric derangement in the summer; hepatic and enteric disorder in the autumn; and cerebral congestion in the winter."

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## IMPORTANCE OF MEDICAL AID IN FEVER.

When the pulse will admit the use of the lancet, this remedy is obviously indicated. For the elucidation of this subject we are more indebted to Dr. Clutterbuck than language can possibly express; but if that potent remedy be inadmissible, we must resort to Pulv. Jacobi Veri, and Calomel—Dr. Marshall's favourite remedy—under which many are daily rescued, though it occasionally happens that neither the one nor the other are admissible. We must, in that case, "lie upon our oars," and prescribe *placebo*, as Dr. Saunders used to say; or try, by cautious means, the efficacy of moderate stimulants. Mr. Ebenezer Mills, a student with a fine medical mind, residing under the same roof with me during our attendance at the Hospital Lectures, has often said to me, "I now abandon febrile cases as hopeless. I have raised expectations in others, and cherished them in myself, so often and unsuc-

cessfully, that now I actually despair of doing any service in fever cases, and I therefore let them run their course." This is indubitably a temptation; but life is too valuable thus to be disposed of. Watch the tide—when to cease to pull down, and when to build up. I am not without my hopes that the day is not very far distant, when the precise period of fevers will be as accurately ascertained as an eclipse, and provided against accordingly; namely, by the due and seasonable administration of eligible stimulants.

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## CASES OF FEVER.

Two gentlemen of Bread-street, æt. 20 and 30, were severally seized with severe symptoms, attended with harassing nausea and sickness. I prescribed Dr. Marshall's favourite remedy, Pulv. Jacobi Veri, or our substitute, Pulv. Antimon. ʒss and Hydrargyric Submur. ʒss every twelve hours, with cooling drinks, constant ventilation, and the head to be kept moist with ardent spirit. The elder of the two patients once required leeches to the temples, by reason of pain in the head. The first dose of the medicine checked the nausea, and by the fourth day convalescence dawned, and I saw them no more; but I charged them to take some simple purgative, to guard against the possible ill effects of the calomel, cautioned them against taking solid food prematurely, and reminded them of Dr. Bate-



man's public remonstrance, who affirms, in his report before the Committee of the House of Commons, that all cases of relapse which he had witnessed were referrible to an undue quantity of food. As far as my experience bears me out, the objection is principally against animal sustenance. A common phrase with me, however, when upon this subject, is, "That a man may be choked by a quartern loaf as well as by a bullock." In order to give better effect to precept, I adduce example in my own person. In the spring of 1819, when Dr. Farre kindly attended me, in chronic hepatitis, medicine and cold water constituted my whole support for eight days; and a similar regimen, with milk, was prescribed for my little boy, for six weeks, under a febrile visitation, a few years ago.

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Mrs. C——, æt. 63, of Doctors' Commons, was attacked with a febrile affection ushered in by severe symptoms, head-ache, and pain in the back, pulse 120, but not full, which precluded the necessity of the lancet. She has occasionally been under my care for more than twenty years, for chronic hepatitis and severe neuralgia, in which the blue pill and warm nephritics and demulcents had been invariably useful. Incautiously, I suggested the occasional use of Hollands and water, (though, as Dr. Haighton facetiously observes, I should have said water and Hollands) with a view

of preventing the rapid recurrence of nephritic pain in the loins. In short we were between Seylla and Charybdis. My patient's attachment to the stimulating and more pleasant medicine, soon subjected her to dyspepsia, &c. It became latterly useless for me to protest against it; besides, she did not take (in her indefinite terms) more than "a thimble full" at any one time. My indulgence was as much valued by her as the intercession of a papistical priest when well paid. I recommenced, in the febrile attack, with Pulv. Antimon.  $\zeta$ ss and Calomel  $\mathfrak{z}$ ss every twelve hours, adding decided purgatives. For two days no perceptible advantage was visible. The reputed inertness of the Antimonial preparation I began to fear would be realized in this instance. I then endeavoured, by strenuous exertions, largely augmenting the doses, to excite ptyalism, as the only hope of recovery. From past experience I had found, that, instantly upon that action being set up, the pulse ceases to beat in a feverish manner; and with a view of promoting diaphoresis, I ordered the lower extremities to be fomented as Dr. William Saunders used to recommend. With the fifth dose, however, of the Pulv. Ant. and Calomel, perspiration oozed so profusely from the skin as to supersede the necessity of this, and from that time the severity of the febrile symptoms abated. By the following day she was completely out of danger, and after all without ptyalism. A slight eruption had ap-

peared on the upper lip. During this solemn suspense of disease, I urged her to seek God by fervent prayer, whose favour is ready at hand for all applicants, and from which none are exempted but those who exclude themselves. She thanked me.

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Miss S——, ætatis 9, had eaten and drank a due proportion of all the varied attractive dishes and niceties usually circulated on holidays, and arose on the following morning free from complaint. But after breakfast, instead of resuming her accustomed and useful occupation of teaching her younger sisters, leaned her forehead against a chair, expressing that she felt considerable pain in her head. She was instantly removed into her own cot, and watched sedulously. Nothing but over-eating first occurred to our minds as the cause, for, by thus adding to the “daily drudgery of digestion,” nature had to contend with an extraordinary demand. She spent the whole day in silence and sleep; but at night the pulse had acquired much rapidity, with augmented fever and pain throughout the whole region of the brain. Her tongue was so much furred as even to excite alarm. The parents had lost a fine child under hydrocephalus, preceded by inflammation of the brain, and owing to a difference of opinion among the learned M.D.s, the only favourable opportunity for efficient exertion was permitted to escape,

till all hope of success disappeared, leaving the distressed parties bitterly grieving over the imperfections of the wisest of men. This interesting part of their history excited under the circumstances in question the keenest vigilance, lest a similar calamity should recur in their family. About eleven A. M. we were proposing the use of leeches on the temples, removing the hair, and bathing the scalp with cooling spirits for the purpose of evaporation, when she ejected from the stomach much greenish matter or vitiated bile, which relieved the head instantly, and she afterwards slept free from moaning. Nothing was now necessary but abstinence from food, and avoiding noise. I afterwards prescribed a few powders of Calomelanos  $\mathfrak{ss}$ . and Pulv. Basilic  $\mathfrak{ij}$ .

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Mrs. J——, of Friday Street, was seized with fever, and her husband called on me, requesting me to send an aperient draught. I told him I should think it no trouble to call before I prescribed, for I was in the company of thirty-two practitioners during two hours the preceding night, and we all felt the necessity of inspecting cases individually. I found the lady in bed, with her hands pressing hard upon her temples, with a view, no doubt, of affording slight relief from pain; she had a furred tongue, and a full and frequent pulse, with general fever. She chiefly complained, how-



ever, of extreme dejection of spirits, to which she had been, she said, for the most part a stranger, having always uninterrupted occupation—(one of the best known antidotes against ennui.) The bustle of business had prevented her from paying proper attention to the bowels. Four leeches were immediately applied to the temples. Extract Colocynth. Comp. with Calomel and Pulv. Basilic, in six pills, were prescribed. I further intended by the next day to employ a lancet boldly, should the febrile symptoms not have yielded; but, on my second visit, there was no necessity for any further medical interference. She had descended a story lower, and was superintending the preparation of some beef-tea, which she showed to me. I said “I should prefer pump-water for you, my good lady. Now,” I added, “we have need to be cautious as to food, or we may have to pass through the same routine a second time, as probably the fever may return with augmented severity; and, in the course of my practice, I have repeatedly seen the disease in such cases degenerate into a typhoid type, and the patient ultimately die.” However, on the third visit, there was such a perfect absence of pain and fever, as to warrant my final withdrawalment.

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Mrs. S—— was seized with fever, which was ushered in with excessive heat, furred tongue, and

pulse 120, but not full enough to invite the lancet. I prescribed Pulv. Antim. ʒss. Hydrarg. Submuriatis gr. v. every eight hours. After the second dose a most decided and satisfactory impression was made upon all the febrile symptoms; and, after the third dose, the remaining symptoms became evanescent, and my services were no longer requisite. I took my leave, after charging the parties to preserve the bowels open, by any chosen measure, for a few days, till the appetite returned.

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Between the extremes of the stimulating plan and the unceasing depletory method, there must be some intermediate path. I had the honour of enjoying an intimacy with the late Dr. Lubbock of Norwich, whose practice, I presume, enabled him to realize 6000*l.* per annum, such was its extent, and such his celebrity: his objection to bleeding was carried to so great a height of absurdity as occasionally to involve him in altercations with other practitioners. Even in the treatment of Enteritis he resisted its use most strenuously; and, but for the firmness and independent spirit exercised by the general practitioners in his vicinity, the poor enteritic patients must often have sunk.

Mrs. J——, of Queenhithe, laboured under general fever, and slight uneasiness in the head, with a good pulse, which would have borne the

lancet, but did not seem to urge its imperious necessity. As relief was at first obtained by constantly keeping the head cool with spirit, upon the principle of evaporation, and by constant purgatives, I was insensibly led into a fatal error; for, at the expiration of a fortnight, when we hoped that some food might be permitted, collapse supervened and she suddenly sunk into the arms of death.

Mrs. S——, of Bread Street Hill, laboured under peritonitis, but without tenderness of the abdomen upon pressure, probably owing to the inner coat only of the uterus being inflamed. The pulse was good. In this case also, the regretted hesitation about the use of the lancet gained ascendancy over me; and, after a few weeks, the lady sunk first into ascites, and afterwards died.

I feel almost confident that had the lancet been liberally employed, these cases might have terminated successfully.

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INFANTILE FEVER.

I seldom prescribe, in my domestic circle, the use of medicine in infantile fever. Total abstinence from even the sight of food is rigidly enjoined, and cooling, but scantily nutritious drinks, in any variety. These ailments generally have their origin in an undue quantity of nutriment. Dr. Saunders used to advise us “to lie upon our oars:” nature having so

many facilities of relieving herself from the ponderous loads of indigestible matter with which the primæ viæ are in such cases gorged. In the routine of practice, it is proper to expedite the efforts of nature by remedial measures. By observing the simplicity of this plan, my domestic friends may learn how to appreciate, in future life, the effects of the healing art, viz. by superseding its necessity, and by attending to a few plain rules dictated by common sense. I am continually obliged to upbraid my unwise patients with the absurdity of taking food prematurely; which proves both distressing to the diseased parties and postpones the period of convalescence to an unlimited term. I even charge them with exercising less sagacity than is possessed by our domesticated quadrupeds. Certainly a difficulty presents itself here, namely, the commencement of a disease, often fatal in its termination, for which nature possesses no adequate resources. To meet this evil, I presume the parties would quickly abandon their unscientific measures, for the superior aid of legitimate practitioners.

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A fatal termination occasionally surprises us in infantile fever, so as to supply the multitude with the argument, that as the little sufferers are unable to point out and describe their feelings, practitioners are necessarily working in the dark. Now



although there may be some degree of truth in the observation, and though it may occasionally exhibit the deficiency of the healing art; yet that it should be so in every instance, I cannot admit. I was recently summoned to a case of ardent fever, in an infant, *æt.* nine months, with a full vibrating pulse, and attended with convulsive paroxysms. The gums were warm, but on the lancet being applied to them, it afforded no relief. The parents, (with whom I have been on friendly terms and in medical association since 1795), had lost several children by hydrocephalus, and the affection excited apprehension for the head. There was no unusual antipathy to light and noise; and there was a full and clear perception cognizable by the countenance. In short, I was at a loss what prognosis to form, and I contented myself with the customary febrifuge and leeches to the temples, with a view of meeting the apprehended adversary, which had not at present certainly made an attack. I regretted I had not been called in sooner, judging from the severity of the symptoms that they were of longer standing; but in this I was mistaken. The first seizure had taken place early on the preceding day, and on the third day death closed the scene.

In hopes that I should have the post mortem examination offered me, I suggested that I had no doubt we should find some internal membrane under sphacelation; and probably, could aid have

been afforded earlier, depletory measures might have rendered relief, and prevented that peculiarly bounding pulse, the probable result of nature's inefficient struggles; but not being sufficiently explicit, (at least as the parents thought,) I was deprived of the opportunity of satisfying myself as to the real state of the cerebral derangement.

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ON THE CAPABILITIES OF THE MUSCULAR FIBRES TO DIS-  
LODGE EXTRANEOUS BODIES.

Mr. Cline used to say, in his surgical lectures in 1790, 1, and 2, that however it may appear unscientific to leave to the efforts of nature such foreign substances as may have lodged in different parts of the body, so that they may separate spontaneously, yet that on the whole this method is safer than attempting to remove them by rough and violent means. Agreeably to this suggestion, I have repeatedly and generally acted since that period, and have, in consequence, brought upon myself at times the imputation of ignorance; but this charge must be patiently endured; for it is well when medical students "count the cost" of public opinion.

Most of us who have been thirty years in practice are able to call to mind the circumstance of the brother of T. Mellish, Esq. M.P. a gentleman of the most amiable manners, and "reposing beneath the shadow of royalty," being attacked,

whilst passing in the vicinity of Town, by a robber, who, on discharging his pistol, wounded him in the integuments of the scalp, he rashly refusing to be plundered. As the ball could never be found, it is now concluded that it fell in the chaise, after having inflicted the wound; but as the surgical authorities were anxious to get possession of this bullet, the continual probing, in searching for it, finally excited inflammation in the dura mater, and, this spreading, accomplished his dissolution.

I have seen a bullet removed from the leg of an old soldier, where it had formed a nidus, or sack, apparently subjecting him to no inconvenience; though, from its position among the tendons, it might have been followed by tetanus, under a violent though careful removal. I have seen a surgical luminary of the first magnitude baffled in an attempt at removing a needle, which, after all, he was under the necessity of leaving to nature's salutary process, and from which no injury resulted.

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FISTULA IN PERINÆO.

Miss L——, ætatis 25, in my vicinity, was afflicted with a perinæal fistula, which insidiously menaced her life. Upon the abscess breaking, a considerable quantity, as usual, of foetid pus escaped, and which, by incontestable proofs, had penetrated the rectum. The operation was soon

manifestly necessary to preserve her life, as her daily exhaustion threatened to prove fatal. I have attended the family ever since the year 1795; their former practitioner having lost their confidence in consequence of prescribing a few grains of calomel, which unfortunately elicited ptyalism in one of the female branches. I entreated that I might be excused from performing the operation, aware that the sinus will not always completely unite; and I requested that Mr. Cline might be called in for that purpose. My request, however, made no impression, and the demand upon me was imperative. Upon passing the bistoury, and withdrawing the bent piloting probe, I found the sinus one inch or more beyond the orifice leading into the rectum. Here existed a difficulty, whether it would be proper to carry the waxed point beyond the orifice, so as to secure a complete union, and make sure that the orifice should be at the same time divided. I had, of course, no opportunity of consulting under such circumstances, and I determined to lay the sinus open only from the orifice. I accordingly brought it through; and in two weeks, as I anticipated, the delicate lady was well and gratified. I met her soon afterwards in Cheapside, amidst the gay circle, participating in and enjoying "the busy hum" of relatives and friends.



## ON WEARING FLANNEL.

For more than twenty years the language of the prophet (EZEKIEL, xliv.) has occasionally engrossed my attention upon this subject. The prohibition is thus worded: "They shall not gird themselves with wool that causeth sweat." Although Palestine and Babylon are regions many degrees nearer the equinoctial line than "Britannia Magna," I think we need not restrict the precept to those limits. What every body says must be true. The universal rage for wearing flannel next the skin made me once try it; for who would be singular at the expense of his health? *Experientia docet.* I do not know what I might wear in the Arctic regions; but as I hope never to visit them, unless it be by accompanying in fancy voyagers whose temerity is greater than their prudence, in my routine of practice I have occasionally touched upon this minor matter, observing, that those who continue the use of flannel in immediate contact with the skin, are more susceptible of catarrh or quinsey than others. I have so long noticed the fact, that, with me, though I may be under a delusion, it admits of no doubt; and at the same time, while I enjoy in my own person so happy an exemption, I shall continue my predilections, though I gain no converts. I was recently arguing the point with Mr. Bernal, the Israelite. He replied by observing, that he had travelled many countries,

and never met with a medical man before, who protested against flannel. "I cannot help it, Sir," said I, "that is my opinion; and, as my mother taught me, 'if you have truth on your side, always dare to be singular, even against the whole world,' no wonder I am so attached to the motto, *Non timeo, sed caveo*."

Ten years ago, I was called in to Mr. D——, of Aldgate, to pass an opinion upon a very disagreeable and troublesome eruption. My patient and I went up stairs, accompanied by Mrs. D——, as delicate and accomplished a lady as can be found in any district. Upon inspecting the eruption, which covered the whole body and chest, I observed that he was encased with an armour of flannel, steeped with inspissated perspiration. My olfactory nerves were saluted by the foetid exhalations, which had no means of escape. I exclaimed, "My good Sir, I would not submit to such purgatory for all the Cardinals in Italy: all this is self-procured; get into the hot bath, and put on a new flannel waistcoat over your linen." My patient was shortly well, and often thanks me for my advice.

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#### NATURE'S RESTORATIVE POWERS IN FRACTURE.

A Youth, owing to the falling of an iron bar, had his tibia and fibula crushed; and so violent was the blow as almost to separate the injured parts. Mr.

Alderson, of Norwich, thought that union was practicable, and resolved upon the attempt, in which he was not deceived; for, after the usual process of suppuration, exfoliation, and rest, he perfectly recovered. Whilst I attended Mr. Cline's lectures in 1790, 1, and 2, he had a hamper sent him, with a letter, and enclosing a lower limb, which had been amputated. The case had been a bad compound fracture. The practitioner, who had been a pupil of Mr. C. now referred to him for an answer as to the propriety, nay, the necessity, which had existed of removing the injured limb, on account of which his professional character had been considerably implicated. Mr. C.'s answer was most unhesitatingly in the affirmative, and altogether justifying the measure. The impression on my mind, however, was, after inspecting the amputated limb, that the injury was by no means so great as that in the case of the youth before mentioned. How far it is a prudential practice to risk the supervention of sphacelus, in endeavouring to preserve a useful limb, I do not undertake to determine. *In medio tutissimus ibis.*

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## A FRACTURED CLAVICLE.

A Child, owing to a fall, fractured its clavicle. The case had been treated as a dislocation; and I was requested to see the patient five

weeks after the accident. The broken edges had united by osseous needles, at an obtuse angle, which might have been prevented, had the arms been kept steadily backwards, so as to have maintained the divided portions in complete apposition. The best consolation I could afford was, to hope the child might again fall and break the awkwardly-united bones ; in which case it might be put into perfect and permanent union. I have seen such cases attempted to be rectified by strong manual powers ; but restorative nature is the most efficient in correcting imperfections. Against this evil, Mr. Cline repeatedly used to caution his pupils, in the years 1790, 1, and 2.

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## FRACTURE IN THE GLENOID CAVITY.

A Servant of Mrs. W——, of Bread-street-hill, called at my house, having met with a severe blow upon her shoulder. Upon exposing both shoulders, with the usual precaution of ascertaining the difference in appearance which had been made by the accident, there appeared a comparatively slight depression, though not a dislocation. I remember, about thirty years ago, calling in Sir A. Cooper to a lady in Newgate-street, where his anatomical acumen recognised, after a careful examination, a lateral fracture in the glenoid cavity. Both these cases were treated by supporting the arm in a tight sling, and moving it occasionally to prevent anchy-



losis ; and the joints of both were preserved perfect. It is important that we should discharge our duty to the public at all times, but of late the injured parties have had recourse to law to obtain redress. Mr. Cline confesses, in his lectures, that in attempting to reduce a femur, luxated forwards, by means of the pulleys, he made an unusual extension, and carried the head quite beyond the acetabulum, from which he could never afterwards dislodge it, leaving the gentleman with an irrecoverable dislocation backwards, in every point of view worse than the original one. How this case might set the Hall of Bronze at work, amongst the conscientious Sophs of the law !

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## A FRACTURED FIBULA.

Mr. —, an Appraiser, was thrown out of his gig with extreme violence ; and probably it was owing to the defence which was afforded by a strong waterproof hat (a light chip hat that he commonly wore being that day most providentially left at home,) that his skull escaped a fracture. However, he had the misfortune to fracture his fibula. His medical confidant, owing to considerable tension throughout the whole injured limb, could not at first discover a fracture, nor was it, in this stage of the case, of any importance. On the fifth day from the accident, I was requested to see him, from an

apprehension being entertained that all was not right. On examining the limb by the method of rotation, the fracture was obvious enough. I whispered to the surgical oracle of the village, to make an extension, and he would distinctly feel a crepitus. "You are right, Sir," he said, "there certainly is, and at the usual place." Splints and confinement for a fortnight accomplished every thing that was necessary. My endeavours now were engrossed in restoring this attentive practitioner to the good graces of the clamorous females. Fortunately, in London, we are independent of the "scourge of the tongue;" but it is not so in country places. I explained to them, that under a swollen limb, no scientific tact could immediately recognise a fracture, nor was it at all material till a given number of days had elapsed; and I charged them all to be careful of professional character. This gentleman's subsistence, and their own welfare in future cases, equally required this caution. "If you violate this law of candour," said I, "I will demand for my services (as the College has entitled me to do) nine pounds ten shillings, and if I hear no more of it, you shall be perfectly welcome to my services gratuitously."

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#### ON DIVIDING THE FRENUM UNDER THE TONGUE.

This operation is occasionally performed by the oppressed infant with its own nails; so extended

and efficient are nature's resources. Nevertheless, for the most part (as in shedding the fangless teeth in the subsequent stage) the child is not usually competent to the work. Many years ago, an aged female (not a proficient in anatomy, of course) undertook to perform this trifling operation, but carried the points of the scissars so deep as to divide the lingual artery along with the frenum,—and hemorrhage, terminating fatally, was the result. Some deem it of such small importance, as really to refuse to perform the necessary act, and particularly if the child be a female. I was once in company with a lady ætatis 20, who lisped immoderately, giving me indubitable proof of the undivided state of the frenum. I instantly proposed to give her tongue a little more liberty. The lady as quickly consented, is now ætatis 48, and has never lisped since.

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## FUNGUS HÆMATODES.

Mr. W——, of the East India House, was, from his youth, the subject of a stationary excrescence under the left clavicle, issuing from an old cicatrix. During the spring of the last year, he amused himself much in his garden, and had many accidental rubs upon the protuberance. By those circumstances considerable pain was occasioned, and an ulcer, which emitted very sanious matter. A con-

sultation, of the first eminence, was held upon the case; and, the radix of the tumour being considered to be deeply seated, no further time was suffered to elapse, but its removal by the scalpel unanimously urged, and as promptly acceded to by the patient. Two lateral incisions were made, each commencing at the superior, and meeting at the inferior, part of the tumour. A small vessel was tied up in the interim; the pectoral muscle was beautifully denuded; the fungus, without difficulty, removed; the edges brought together by adhesive plaster; and the triumph of the knife was complete. Hitherto we have had no cause to lament the removal of this tumour.

Precisely at the same period, Mrs. B——, of Bishopsgate-street, showed me a small ulcer upon the right side of her tongue, which was attributed to a decayed tooth. As this appeared very probable, the carious tooth was extracted. The ulcer, however, still continued to exude much offensive matter, and was treated in the usual manner. With a camel's hair pencil, I touched it with a solution of Lunar Caustic, and of Sublimate, alternately. Under this process, it appeared to heal, and unexpectedly, I had acquired no small share of credit. But cessation of diseased hostilities soon vanished; the ulcer suddenly exhibited the most malignant character; the whole tongue quickly became indurated; the distressed subject was



scarcely able to articulate; deglutition was performed with extreme difficulty; the throat was prodigiously swollen; and she expired suddenly by suffocation, about the termination of the third month from the commencement of the disease. Mr. Travers was so kind as repeatedly to render his important assistance, and I embrace this opportunity of expressing my sincere respect for that gentleman's splendid talents, and professional attainments. Having consulted Mr. Septimus Wray, of Fleet-street, upon the case, and its fatal termination, I believe, with him, that had the lunar caustic been more liberally made use of, this valuable wife and mother might have been spared to her bereaved connexions.

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ON GOULARD'S WATER, IN SCALDS.

During my residence in the Norwich Hospital, a brewer's man was brought in, who had fallen into a scalding vat. His head and hands only escaped vesication. He had contrived to scramble out of the vat without assistance. On removing his clothes and putting him to bed in the hospital, the cuticle separated from his body, and came off with his apparel. It was at a period of intense and long-continued frost. Our predilections at that time, were for the application of cold Goulard's Water, in cases of burns, &c. This was con-

tinually soaked upon him, by means of sponges, and I well remember his frequent cries for its repetition. Tubs were placed to catch the residuum under his bed. He never complained of cold. Anodynes were occasionally administered. In six weeks the newly-formed skin was produced under a cream-like secretion, and his recovery was marvellous and rapid.

Ten years after this, I was called to attend a young woman who had set her smart cap on fire, by a candle. It was with difficulty the flames were subdued. On my arrival, I bore in remembrance the brewer's man, and proceeded accordingly. It was deemed expedient, however, to call in further advice ; and Mr. ——— thought so highly of Dr. Kinglake's plan of stimulating by turpentine, as to recommend it. I confess I felt very reluctant to try this, as my patient was tolerably easy by the Goulard's Water applied externally, and Laudanum administered internally. But I was obliged to acquiesce, and had the mortification to witness much pain, sphacelated members separated, and in the end death. I think if ever I should be called to witness a similar scene, I will respectfully withdraw, and not permit the work of destruction to be carried on so palpably before my eyes. It may be, however, that the termination of the case might not have been better under my own system ; but I will not again subject myself to such mental laceration as I then suffered, in

complying with the recommendations of the aggregated talent of the day.

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## THE GOUT.

Dr. William Saunders, and other teachers of the old schools, had no idea of treating this visitation otherwise than by palliatives; nay, for the greater part, even by the most absurd measures, such as flannel, Madeira, &c. for which they received the general congratulations of the rich, who monopolize this acquired disease.

What creatures of habit we are! It is surprising to think how readily we yield to dictation, where truth is not self-evident. I well remember being present when the professor, occupying the chair with an air of infallibility, surrounded by ardent aspirants, stratum super stratum, was explaining the action of the heart in propelling the blood with a peculiar impetus to the farthest extremity of the body, and thus, with extraordinary self-satisfaction, accounting for arthritic paroxysms!!! Most of us were engaged in taking notes, as though his lecture had been endowed with the words of inspiration, thinking that our two hundred guineas had been well and sufficiently recompensed. The introduction of L'Eau Medicinale soon developed a new source of hoped relief; and it was anticipated, that, by subsequent

experience, the gout, as well as small-pox, would become a disease only to be known from history.\*

Admitting that the violent operation of the French medicine precludes its universal introduction into practice; yet we now find that appropriate cathartics, and leeches, upon every return of the gouty paroxysm, render it less and less violent, till the arthritic blood is finally expelled. If the patient then become comparatively abstemious, and keeps his bowels open, he may, for the most part, take leave of his quondam troublesome companion. For ten years past, I have had no case which has proved rebellious when thus treated, and do not calculate upon one henceforth, except it be the offspring of confirmed debauchery. Its transmission by hereditary privilege and honour, appears to me, for the most part, to arise from a deficiency of good moral feeling—(the father pouring out bumpers for the son)—than by the transmission of a real arthritic temperament.

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RED GRAVEL.

The uric acid, forming constitutionally, affords considerable embarrassment in attempting to dis-

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\* When the Legislature shall humanely prohibit variolous inoculation under a heavy fine, proportioned to the circumstances of the constructive murderers, an enlightened posterity will approve and applaud the law in toto.



lodge it from its painful position, compacted as it is in the ureter, or imbedded in the pelvis of the kidney. Until, indeed, I met accidentally with a compound of Rhubarb, Soap, and a sufficient number of drops of Spt. Juniperi to form a pill, I was in such cases often baffled. Since the introduction of this valuable remedy, I have no occasion for the use of demulcents, diluents, or oleaginous diuretics. Its operation is not in the least degree as a solvent, but wholly by the "*vis a tergo*." I call it the *besom*, and it is thought to be an appropriate name in the circle in which I move. I have under my charge a literary character, who pores over Greek and Hebrew, and who is consequently of sedentary habits. He is far from being generally attached to medicine, but he frequently says, "Let me never be without your red kidney pills, I never fail to lose the pain in my back as soon as I take one or two of them." "Well, Sir," say I, "but you have not done all, though you are at ease; drink barley water in which Gum Arabic has been dissolved, until you perceive that the annoying particle is removed, lest it should concrete in the bladder."

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## HÆMOPTYSIS.

That the use of the lancet is indispensably necessary while the pulse is full, is freely conceded; or

frequently "destruction might justly lie at our doors." But when the hemorrhage becomes passive, should we generally draw off blood? I believe, we often allow the system to be so deteriorated as insensibly to slide into an incipient state of phthisis pulmonalis. I do not arrogate to myself any thing beyond common sense, but, whilst I readily admit that opinion is the common right of all, I cannot refrain from stating my solemn objection to the depletory plan, under the latter circumstances. About the present period, Dr. Matt. B—— prescribed small and frequent bleedings (5  $\bar{z}$  *singulis*) for a case, where spitting of blood returned on the slightest exertion. I fear the result exceedingly: the patient is to appearance ex-sanguineous, but Dr. B—— says the lungs are sound.

Our metropolitan luminaries, in their commendable zeal for simplifying the causes of and remedies for diseases, have, for the purpose of consistency, decided against the existence of passive hemorrhage. For me, I feel no difficulty in admitting that at the expiration of a given space of time, the overcharged vessels, distended by active inflammation, may assume this state when no relief of a depletory kind has been procured. Although nature will sometimes spontaneously relieve herself, a contrary state may exist, for which exhausted nature has no resources adequate to the demand. Here the value of the healing art is exhibited as of primary importance. Nature excites thirst; the

most gratifying fluids are of the acidulous character; vigour returns; the circulation is equally balanced; and, with moderate care, the patient may "live all his days." For more than twenty years past, I have not ventured to retire to rest without preparing a strong infusion of roses, highly acidulated, to use for checking the spitting of blood in case of necessity.

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Very recently Mrs. J——, of Thames-street, ætatis 47, of spare habit, upon exercising her muscular powers beyond her strength, at a time when she was labouring under a harassing cough, suddenly spat up about two pints of blood. The medical confidant pursued the depletory plan; twelve hours afterwards a similar evacuation took place, ad deliquium, and she died. She might, indeed, have sunk under the moderately stimulating plan of red wine negus, to which I am particularly partial under such circumstances, from an augmented experience of its value and efficiency; but with such views I should feel myself highly censurable in resorting to the use of blood-letting, unless it were at the commencement of an attack, and the patient of a plethoric temperament, which, by the way, is not frequently accompanied with hæmoptysis. The community is not a little indebted to Dr. George Rees's Essay upon this point of dispute with the medical world.

Mr. E——, a legal gentleman of distinguished worth, suffered the loss of blood very repeatedly for hæmoptysis, under the ablest physician in the western division of the Metropolis. The spitting of blood continued; the muscles and general system shrunk; rural scenery protracted his existence; but, finally, phthisis pulmonaris closed the scene.

During the process, I ventured to lift up my warning and prophetic voice, but without effect. How far the moderately invigorating plan of Infus. Rosæ and red wine negus might have succeeded, is a matter of doubt; but such is the strength of predilection which I have for the latter system, in preference to the former, that I should place implicit reliance on these means, inasmuch as I have found them in so many instances to be successful.

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PASSIVE HEMORRHAGE.

This is by some rejected as altogether an untenable phrase, although it was admitted by most of the professors of the old schools. Truth must dwell in some region: *in medio tutissimus*. *Ex. gr.* Children are brought to me sprinkled with ill-conditioned ulcerations or ecchymoses. Upon inquiry as to their daily sustenance, I generally learn, as I anticipate, that a very scanty proportion of nutritive aliment has been given. My reply is accordingly:—"Expect no relief from medicine, but



adopt better nourishment. I am not surprised to hear you say, the more physic you have given them, the worse the parties are." To the former class I uniformly prescribe condiments highly nutritious and agreeable: to the latter, Tent Wine or Port, charging the parties with the most egregious folly in exercising economy where it ought never to enter. Following such maxims, you may rear up a progeny scrofulous, deformed, disqualified for the bustle and business of life, and transmitting the cast and character of imbecile drones to posterity, radically impeding nature's best and most vigorous resources.

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## HÆMORRHOIDS.

Hæmorrhoids are, for the most part, caused by constipation. As we are now a reading nation—although our noisy and mischievous neighbours may stigmatize us with the appellation of "the proud Islanders"—our general researches will necessarily soon be directed to anatomy; a very superficial knowledge of which will suffice a common reader for every useful purpose, so far as it respects the digestive powers, and the due proportion, as well as the qualities, of nutriment necessary for all the proper functions and excretories of the body. In this each individual is deeply and constantly interested; besides, such a knowledge would render

every one who possessed it comparatively independent of the uncertain science of the healing art.

The piles are, as I have said, the result of long-retained fæculent matter, which produces an undue enlargement of the hæmorrhoidal vessels, that are unable to expel their contents. This diseased distention consequently produces this troublesome malady. In the incipient stage, the cause being removed by mild sulphureous aperients, or otherwise, the effect ceases; but, in an advanced stage, the vessels will have acquired such a callous character as to be unable to resume their original healthful calibre; whence the necessary removal, with the greatest ease and expedition, is to be effected by the crooked scissars. Previously to this period,—in consequence of having been so frequently mortified by the inefficiency of leeches, ointments, fomentations, and other measures recommended by those who are said to be “skilful to heal,”—I have for many years confided wholly to the plan of local pressure, by means of a cork cut in the form of a sugar-loaf, defended by soft rag or lint, stitched to the T bandage, and inserted into the anus, and worn as the circumstances may require. I believe that in every instance in which I have employed it, there has been no return of the hæmorrhoids; daily attention being of course paid to the state of the bowels.

## HEMIPLEGIA.

Miss S——, ætatis  $15\frac{1}{2}$ , of a leuco-phlegmatic temperament, and having never menstruated, was seized in the middle of the night with hemiplegia, restricted to the fascial muscles, and those of the arm. The disease was hereditary on the paternal side, at twenty years' distance; had been relieved, in that case, by the depletory process; and electricity having been resorted to, has since left no vestige of it remaining. My young patient's pulse was not more than 60; light and noise gave no annoyance, but she could not bear any pressure upon the eye-balls. Her countenance was depressed, and indicative of cerebral pains; the bowels were very torpid; and the mammæ budding. There was no lumbar uneasiness. Leeching for two days afforded insufficient relief; but cupping gave ease immediately. The blood was free from carbon, and the crassamentum was perforated without resistance, indicating the absence of any necessity for further sanguineous evacuation. The pulse rose to 76, and with its additional firmness, sleep returned without anodynes. Just as I was preparing to take leave, a return of cerebral pain manifested itself, without any assignable cause for its ingress and egress. The intermittent character of the new adversary, and the want of firmness in the crassamentum, forbade any further depletory measures; and milk with a small portion of rum, as

the least unexceptionable substitute for Cinchona, was recommended. The anticipated attack was thus postponed for two and a half hours, and this treatment being followed up with perseverance, the remaining symptoms were speedily overcome.

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Mrs. —, of King-street, ætatis 45, of a leucophlegmatic habit, was attacked with hemiplegia. She had required my assistance five years before, when labouring under an affection of the head, which had been greatly aggravated by her own unhappy temper, and by her husband not being the kindest spouse in proud Britain. My remedial measures were rather moral management than the administration of medicine ; but I did not omit local depletion. I was incessantly opposed by the “bug-bear, debility,” the parties judging, (for all have a right to think, though they may be unable to reason,) that the pallid appearance of the subject rather required tonics and nervous medicines. This, however, I disputed inch by inch. If your medical confidant indeed possess no better standard to regulate his conduct than the fears of females, he had better withdraw. After the exercise of a little more patience, I took my leave. I inquired no more after my quondam patient, until I received a note, stating that Mrs. — was in articulo mortis, and requesting my immediate presence. With this request I of course instantly complied,



and on entering the bed-room, I found the patient paralysed, with an open mouth, a vacant stare upon her countenance, utterly unconscious of every thing around her, and with a full pulse, which characterised plainly the nature of the disease. I found she had been a considerable time in this melancholy situation. Five months since, Dr. Babington, my excellent preceptor, had prescribed cupping; and doubtless, had his plan been followed up, the mournful sequel might have been avoided. I merely ventured to cup, to foment the lower extremities, and to moisten the head with proof spirit. After four hours, I called again to see the result of the cupping, and whether the lancet would be advisable; but the quantity of blood taken was small (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  vij); it was not carbonated, and the effect upon the symptoms was scarcely visible. After four hours more she was irrecoverably sinking, and she died about twelve hours afterwards. Nature had put forth a salutary intention very copiously, by catamenia, three weeks before; but this was concealed from me, through the self-will of the parties. I suggested to Mr. — my full conviction that a vessel had given way at the basis of the brain, in hopes that he would have afforded an opportunity for inspection, but the suggestion was not attended to.

## HEPATITIS.

Mr. C——, of Bow-lane, a highly bilious subject, ætatis 63, was affected with severe hepatitis. In so important a case, I was unwilling to take the entire responsibility upon myself, and requested the aid of the late Dr. Haighton. The patient had a character for piety of peculiar simplicity. He was attended by his valuable daughter, and surrounded by his serious circle of friends, among whom was his pastor, the excellent Dr. Rippon, who familiarly called him the honest J. C. It was soon obvious that all curative means would be abortive. J. C. said to his physician, "What do you think of my case? I do not desire to be flattered: I have no fears of death." This observation of Mr. C. the sagacious materialist could not dislodge from his mind, and he frequently repeated it, adding, "that's a great thing for a man to say under any circumstances." Shortly afterwards, the honest J. C. sank peaceably into the arms of death, saying,

"Jesus can make a dying bed

Feel soft as downy pillows are."—WATTS.

To the honour of my quondam friend and instructor, Dr. H., it is with pleasure I narrate a circumstance, evincing that a large proportion of the milk of human kindness was mixed up with all the exuberant eccentricities floating amidst his

celibacious temperament. He had been accustomed to attend a lady, as an accoucheur, (for which he usually received five guineas,) whose husband, calculating upon the accumulation of a fortune in two years, not satisfied with the plodding patience of twenty or twenty-five years to accomplish his object, speculated to a large extent, and, embarking his whole capital, became insolvent. In her reduced circumstances, the lady required the aid of her accoucheur: the Doctor attended without any reluctance, and having rendered his valuable assistance, placed a 10*l.* note on the table on taking his departure.

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Mrs. S——, of Fore-street, ætatis 68, required my assistance, under circumstances of general fever, local fulness, and pain about the epigastric region. She had, for half a century, been a patient of the late Mr. Atkinson. I found her a torpid subject, of a leuco-phlegmatic temperament, and indisposed to action. It appeared that she had occasionally been afflicted with jaundice. I expressed my wish that she would abstain henceforward, as much as possible, from spirits, from sweet things, and from fat. Finding the pulse about 100, and very full, I had no hesitation in proposing venesection. The reply was, “O dear! Sir; I was never blooded in my life.” “Well, my good lady,” said I, “however unnecessary it might have been deemed on former occasions, yet, now, if you do not submit to

it, the consequences will inevitably be fatal, and either you or I will be chargeable with your death." She then consented, and I removed eight ounces of blood from a minute cephalic vein, which was to be felt full, though not seen—(the blood was highly carbonated, buffed, and cupped: the last extracted more so than the first,)—and she acknowledged herself easier before the operation terminated. A large blister was applied to the part affected, subsequently to fomentation; and purgatives, both in the solid and fluid form, were persisted in until the colour of the alvine evacuation assumed a natural appearance. By the fourth day, I had the pleasure of taking leave of my patient, who no longer required my morning and evening attention.

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## CHRONIC HEPATITIS.

This disease occurred in the person of a medical practitioner, residing in the metropolis, who, I presume, had been a bon vivant. He had passed through the customary routine of Hydrarg. Submur. and the blue pill, without obtaining the expected benefit. Town air being considered an insuperable impediment to his recovery, he was persuaded to dispose of his business, and to eke out the residue of a torpid existence in Bath. Ruminating upon his life of monotonous inactivity and constant ennui, his washer-woman said, "Sir,



I can cure you." "Ah! old woman," said he, "I'll give you twenty guineas if you can." "Take, then," said she, "the yolks of nine eggs every morning, fasting." As a drowning man grasps at a straw, so the patient entered immediately upon the plan recommended, observing, that he would give ample trial to the mode of treatment, by doubling the dose of the medicine. At the expiration of a few days, the evacuations from the bowels were effected with less difficulty; they soon afterwards assumed a more natural character; and in less than six weeks, this gentleman actually returned to town in a state of convalescence.

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## CASE OF HEPATITIS SUCCEEDED BY INTERMITTENT.

Mr. R——, of Thames-street, æt. 58, was seized with frequent feverish heats, which required my assistance. He had been a bon vivant, had occasionally had bilious affections, and was now labouring under a vibrating, and frequent, rather than a full pulse. The viscera implicated were obviously the liver and the kidneys, for which I prescribed demulcent drinks, to be taken plenteously, Pulv. Ant. with Calomel, and the blue pill. On the following morning, I was surprised to see him free from fever and pain, and I accordingly anticipated his rapid convalescence; but he had taken a boiled egg, contrary to the abstemious plan

recommended, and this produced an increased recurrence of pain and fever. I now had the scalp kept constantly moistened with brandy, and resorted to the usual antiphlogistic regimen, which, after three days, reduced the febrile symptoms. Highly carbonated fæculent matter was constantly carried off by the usual purgatives, and the general fever was superseded by a regular quotidian, (a customary concomitant observed by us all, recently, from inexplicable causes.) This quickly yielded to the old fashioned remedy of Cinchona, mixed with rum and milk. My patient was very reluctant I should take my leave, saying, that he thought I could give him strengthening medicines. "Poh!" said I, "I shall send you to the poulterer or butcher for these; I want my time for more important purposes."

Upon my first visit to this bon vivant, I naturally inquired his age. After a considerable pause, he replied, "between fifty and sixty." "Poh!" I said, "I can say the same, who am much younger than you." "Well then, I am on the wrong side of sixty rather than fifty." I now repeated the well-known anecdote of the late Rev. Richard Cecil, who being in the Hampstead coach along with several aged gentlemen, that had retired, and were visiting that delightful satellite of the Metropolis (as Mrs. Barbauld used to call it), the conversation turned upon the advanced ages of the parties. All who spoke, argued that they were on the wrong

side of sixty. The pious divine, (the most honourable character upon earth,) possessing both the wisdom of the serpent and the harmlessness of the dove, remained silent until they extorted from him an answer. "No, gentlemen," said he, "whatever you may think of my age, I can assure you I am on the *right* side of sixty." Common courtesy would not permit them to express a doubt of the statement in words; but their significant looks plainly indicated their unbelief. Resuming the subject himself, he, with his accustomed cheerful gravity, observed, that he certainly was considerably beyond sixty in years, but that placed him on the *right* side; inasmuch as, through grace, he was nearer heaven. Here the conversation terminated, and nothing more transpired, but "Good day, gentlemen." Upon my final visit, about twelve days subsequently, I said, "I hoped I should have the pleasure ere long of reporting, that he was now on the *right* side."

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## HEPATITIS WITH PERITONITIS.

Mrs. U—— had her accouchement with her eighth child over so rapidly, as to require my neighbourly interference in the absence of her medical confidant, who arrived just at the termination of the labour, when I, of course, transferred the lady to his care. She had implicit con-

fidence in him, and I therefore did not presume to call any more, although I should have paid the customary attention had I been aware of the wishes of Mr. W. the accoucheur, who himself resided at a considerable distance, and to whom travelling was a great inconvenience at his advanced period of life. He considered that as my residence was contiguous to the patient, that I should occasionally call on her, and therefore called himself but once after her accouchement. So that between us both, this delicate lady had literally no attention; though, from subsequent inquiry, it appeared that medicine and attendance were highly needful, particularly on the fifth and ninth days. At the end of the month, I was very hastily summoned. After prescribing, I said, "My presence is only to supply the place of Mr. W——," when I was informed of Mr. W's single visit, and of his expectations with regard to my occasionally calling. The lochia had suffered some interruption; the present symptoms seemed to result from the right edge of the liver being inflamed, which, however, yielded to leeching, vesication, and mercurial purgatives, together with abstinence from solid food. Unfortunately this latter very important prohibition was not persevered in by the parties, for John Bull's family must eat, though it cost them their lives. Instantly all the hepatic symptoms became aggravated, spreading along the peritonæal, with all the alarming symptoms of a furred tongue, accele-



rated pulse, and incapacity of respiring deep, or making any approach towards it. After affording the patient the full effect of the antiphlogistic plan for a time without success, and aware that opportunities in this insidious adversary were not to be lost, I resolved to try the effect of the lancet. "O! she is so weak" it was said, "she cannot bear it." "Well," I said, "I shall not have much sleep in the night: I shall be lamenting over your prejudices and absurdities." Thus, I extorted an acquiescence; and took blood in three separate vessels. Relief was sensible under the flow; and breathing could be accomplished with less uneasiness. The blood in all the vessels was covered with a coat quite impenetrable to the spoon, though in the last, of course, it was somewhat less resisting. The following day Dr. Babington was kind enough to bear the responsibility, justifying in toto all the measures that had been adopted. He prescribed Saline Draughts and Enemata, and by the succeeding day she began to ask for food.

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## HERNIA HUMORALIS.

We all know the untractable nature of this sequelæ of syphilis, whether it arises from the spontaneous absorption of the poison, or be the result of too potent injections pushed up as far as the verumontanum, and producing inflamma-

tion in the ordinary gonorrhæa. We very well know also the active remedial measures necessary to be resorted to, as venesection, leeches, &c. I feel strongly disposed to express my obligations to Mr. Thomas Bush of Frome, who reports that prior to the last ten years he used venesections, topical bleeding, &c.; but from that period to the present, he has used Tartrite of Antimony, given in doses twice a-day, sufficient to produce nausea or even vomiting. It uniformly effects a cure in a few days. He adds, "I have met with no rebellious case—not one in which bleeding topically or generally, has been resorted to." I have repeatedly followed Mr. B's counsel with such decided advantage, that I believe I shall have no further occasion to drag through the tedious routine of the means hitherto pursued.

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## INCARCERATED HERNIA.

Mrs. R——, the estimable relict of a quondam short-hand writer in the House of Commons, was subject to Exomphalos containing Enterocoele and Epiplocele. During a paroxysm in the year 1819, the usual remedies, Enemata and Castor Oil, made no impression; stercoraceous matter was evacuated; but the warm bath (pressure being used at the time,) restored the disordered parts. Since this period a renewal of the symptoms supervened;

the usual means failed ; and the operation was proposed prior to the commencement of sphacelus ; for most of us recollect the circumstances attending the premature death of the late Duke of Bedford. Mrs. R——, however, would not consent : she was happy in God, and was content to die. After waiting a few days, the offensive matter became moderated ; the pain lessened ; sleep was occasionally refreshing ; and the hot baths, Ene-mata, and Castor Oil, were unceasingly continued. Symptoms of amendment began to be developed ; a desire for fluid nutriment was elicited ; and hopes were entertained of her ultimate recovery. But at the expiration of the sixth day, she expired ; the pulse exhibiting a fulness sufficient to betray the most discerning acumen into a wrong prognosis, as we all know occurred in the case of the late Queen Caroline.

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## IMPOSITION OF A PATIENT.

An extraordinary case occurred while we were busily employed in the dissecting room at Saint Thomas's Hospital. A report suddenly reached us, that Mr. Cline was going to perform Lithotomy upon a female. The simultaneous rush which took place, showed the preference that was given to the living rather than the dead subject, and the operating room was soon crammed with aspiring stu-

dents, stratum super stratum. After waiting a few minutes, the sister of the ward brought the patient, a comely, stout young woman, and placed her upon the operating-table, bound hand and foot as usual. The nates elevated sans ceremonie, Mr. Cline sat down for the purpose of operating. Upon introducing the finger per vaginam, he extracted a piece of coal; this was succeeded by a second, again by a third, and fourth, in short the vagina was literally crammed with these extraneous substances. Upon their removal, further examination was made into the bladder, which was found to contain no calculus whatever. The subject was untied, and conveyed back to the ward. Mr. C——, with an elevated chin and half smiling countenance, said, “Gentlemen, this young woman has been imposing upon us; and I am wholly at a loss to know what could have induced her to subject herself to this exposure, unless it be the provision in the hospital.”

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## INDURATION OF THE INNER CONDYLE OF THE KNEE.

John P——, Esq., Underwriter, sitting on horse-back with all the dignity of his late Majesty, and enjoying the sports of the field, rubbed his knee so violently as to create pain and tumefaction. Valuing my medical exertions on former occasions, he paid me a visit after meeting with the accident.



Vesication and rest was, of course, all that was necessary, and in ten days he was as well as usual. On mounting his favourite horse again, the original affection soon recurred. His objections now were strongly urged against the sore blister. The Tartrite of Antimony ointment was therefore substituted, though operating more tediously, and leaving indelible cicatrices. A second time he was released from swelling and pain. Riding, his chosen diversion, in spite of all my remonstrances, brought the malady on a third time; and his visit now was to tell me, that his partners had pressed him to call on Mr. A——. “You are at liberty,” said I, “to act as you please. I cannot have the smallest objection; but this I tell you, he’ll only prescribe the blue pill; his discernment will exceed mine; he’ll discover latent derangement in the digestive organs.” On returning to his town residence, Mr. P. put the prescription into my hand, which exactly fulfilled my prediction. I concurred, of course; for “what can a man do that comes after the king,” as Solomon says. Several days elapsed before my patient re-appeared. He had made no progress towards ease and activity. I referred him to the monarch who had prescribed the blue pill, regretting that so much valuable time had been uselessly expended. His second visit to Mr. A. was for the purpose of remonstrance. “Beware,” said I, “of entering ‘the cockatrice’s den.’” Under not a little irritation, he expostulated, and told Mr. A.

he should have ordered a blister, which had relieved him so much before. The reply was, as I understand, "You may do as you please." The horseman has for some time been under the necessity of wearing a pad inside his boot, to defend the permanent induration; which is, however, now spontaneously subsiding.

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#### ON INFANTS TAKING COLD AT THEIR BIRTH.

In such cases, infants are indebted to the ignorance or perverseness of the monthly nurses, whom Dr. John Haighton used to stigmatize as "our d——d plagues." Many an innocent babe has, from this cause, contracted a permanently opaque cornea, as I have witnessed. In one instance, both eyes were thus affected, and the injured party necessarily became blind for life. This awful event occurred more than twenty years ago; since which period I have invariably exerted my temporary authority in similar cases, and insisted upon the new-born infant being washed and dried, and clothed as expeditiously as possible. The first sneeze is an indication that the operation of dressing has already been protracted beyond its needful length; and unless the process of wiping dry, before a good fire, has been duly attended to, the suckling mother may be annoyed beyond what is usual and requisite; not to mention the diffi-

culties which it may throw in the way of her recovering strength, by exhausting lactation, &c., with the afflicting cries and distresses of the hopeful plant. While I have been removing the placenta, and adapting the moderate exertion to the concavity of the sacrum, &c., I have often been compelled to urge the sister of the delivered female to commiserate the helpless circumstances of the babe, who was suffering from the supineness of the obstinate nurse. All have an undoubted right to their own individual opinion, provided no second party be a sufferer ; but, under similar circumstances, I should gladly vote that the tread-mill, for one month, should be the doom of such criminal delinquents, were it in my power to infuse a small portion of common humanity thereby—the principal object in view in many legislative enactments.

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#### ON CONCEALMENT OF BIRTH, AND INFANTICIDE.

These are crimes of considerable difference in the eye of the law and of human society. The judicial opinion of the floating of the lungs, entire or in separate portions, is little to be relied upon, when the life of a fellow-creature is at stake. As to the inflation of the infant lungs, a malignant desire, on the part of her adversaries, of bringing the accused into trouble, and the degree of putre-

faction which is sufficient to make them swim in water, may render it extremely doubtful whether or not life has previously existed. I well remember Dr. Lowder, in 1791, adverting to the circumstance of an illegitimate mother depositing her infant in a privy; and when questioned upon it, she asserted that, when obeying the daily call of nature, the child was unexpectedly precipitated into the soil, and was suffocated before help could be procured. At the close of the lecture, a pupil, with considerable anxiety, pressed a renewal of the subject, saying, it had cost him much solicitude, and he was anxious to be informed if it were really possible that such an event could happen; because, if so, he should never be a happy man again, for he had given a verdict founded upon a contrary opinion, and the poor young creature had been hanged accordingly.

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## INJURY OF THE HEAD.

In the case of a Youth, ætatis 12, whose head was crushed between a wheel and a brick wall, and who was supposed to be killed, the trepan removed twelve different portions of the ossa parietalia, and the scalpel literally scooped out nearly a wine-glass-full of dust, dirt, and brain. I was at the time too young to dress the case, but the sight of the cerebral pulsations put me for a while into a state of syncope. This youth perfectly recovered,



and is, as Dr. Alderson often observed, a lad of uncommon shrewdness.

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## INOCULATION EXPLODED.

Mr. J. called on me one day, to ask if I had any small pox matter. "No," replied I; "and if I had, I would not furnish you with it. I have told J. C. so, your neighbour, on more than one occasion." At this reply, Mr. J. was not a little offended; but I smiled at his frowning, repeating the valuable prohibition—"Thou shalt not kill." He brought forward the stale objection, which has been so often satisfactorily answered—"What am I to do? If I don't, some other will." "You reason," said I, "like a Neapolitan assassin." Fie upon all such iniquitous temporising! We shall never be put in a position to complete the exclusion of the small pox, till "the powers that be" shall dare to assert the right of authority generally and properly vested in their hands. Posterity would applaud such a proceeding; and probably would only know the pestiferous disease by report, as the Hebrews now know the ancient leprosy. Suppose the community in general were tested by vaccination once in seven years, what insurmountable obstacle could there be to overcome? It is the extent of imaginary difficulty alone in which the opposers of vaccination venture to indulge their fancy.

## ON KALI ACETATUM.

The kali acetatum is a valuable compound as a diuretic, although cast into complete obscurity by a certain learned body, whose general discernment is highly valuable. In my practice, I have witnessed so much of its efficacy, that I never attempt to prescribe for ascites or hydrops pectoris, without its aid. One hopeless case, that of Mr. S——, of Bread-street-hill, was perfectly cured by its use alone; and Mrs. C——, of Friday-street, also. Coming in contact, very recently, with a celebrated practitioner, this subject by chance engrossed our attention; and I was gratified in noticing the coincidence of our feelings and regrets. He acknowledged it was with him also a very favourite medicine. “*Utilissimum sæpe, quod contemnitur.*”

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## TIGHT LACING AND SPINAL WEAKNESS.

Mr. Cline used to inveigh bitterly against tight lacing of the waist, as practised by the ladies, and exhibited to his assembled pupils a distorted female skeleton, in proof of its mischievous effects. Suicides are of various orders. The floating ribs are, by tight lacing, so far disposed of contrary to nature's intentions, as in many instances to bring on premature dissolution, by an obstruction in the process of

respiration. Sir A. Cooper roundly affirms, that, for one spinal disease falling under his observation in the male, he is consulted by at least five hundred of the other sex. To what can we attribute this, but to the absurdity of tight lacing? Were it not for the relief and liberty which nature enjoys during the recumbent posture in bed, the numbers of deformed females would be increased seven-fold. The inclined plane adjusted to an angle of 45 degrees, so generally resorted to in schools, is doubtlessly highly advantageous; but the principle is, after all, generally misunderstood. I apprehend that greater advantage would result from a more natural posture, which the growing plant would certainly prefer, and which might prevent the head and shoulders from pressing upon the tender bones of the back, and thus accomplish more expeditiously the purposes of posture, without so large a sacrifice of ease. In consequence of vertebral deformity in a relative, I was thrown into the company of Mr. Robert Chessher, of Hinckley, whose plan is highly judicious, and has been very successful; but there is appended to it so important an objection as to render it doubtful whether or not, on the whole, more mischief or good is accomplished by it. A mass of iron pressing upon the hips will support the head and shoulders, to the relief of the diseased vertebræ; but this is carried to destructive excess. Besides, as Sir A. Cooper proves incontestibly, the real object in view is not

by any means attainable, the vertebral structure is incapable of restoration, as Mr. Robert Chessher supposes it to be.

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ON THE VARIETY OF RESULTS ATTENDING THE  
USE OF THE LANCET.

I have been occasionally perplexed what to do, and always feel much caution necessary, when pleuritic and other affections of no doubtful character have rendered the use of the lancet absolutely imperative, or "destruction might lie at our door," as Dr. Clutterbuck most judiciously observes; when phthisis, the tendency to which had not been previously developed, so frequently threatens to supervene, and which, but for pure air and measures promptly pursued, would inevitably lead to a fatal issue.

I was recently summoned to Mr. B——, of Coleman-street, at two o'clock in the morning. From the statement of the messenger, the case appeared flatulent cholera. I took with me pills composed of Extract. Colocynth. Com. and Calomel (always having them, as well as other compounds, in readiness for such occasions.) I left the pills, with the direction that the patient should take two of them every hour until relief was effected. The pulse was full enough to bear the lancet, but I judged that a copious evacuation from the bowels



might supersede the necessity of this, and the cure was accordingly accomplished without venesection. The purgative carried off a prodigious load of carbonated feculent matter, and by the third day my patient was inquiring after savory food. "O! my dear Sir," said I, "that's a most preposterous request, though you may, if you choose, nibble at a bun in the afternoon with a cup of tea." He called out, "I want something to strengthen me, now that I have ceased taking the pills." I then gave pills, sine hydrargyro, lest the occurrence of ptyalism should needlessly distress him. "We give no strengthening medicine now," I said, "under such circumstances. What was the colour of the last motion?" "Very dark, as usual," was the reply. "Then," said I, "you must, at your peril, discontinue the purgative."

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#### ON THE SUPERIORITY OF LEECHING TO CUPPING.

It is taken for granted, that inflamed vessels have their calibre distended beyond the degree compatible with perfect health, and that the *vis medicatrix naturæ* is constantly aiming at the restoration of an impartial equilibrium. Hence, the depletory process is the legitimate road to restored health. But if the inflamed vessels be deeply seated, the application of the scarificator and cupping-glasses cannot possibly serve a sufficient pur-

pose in unloading the gorged redundancy which is suddenly checked. The use of leeches again allowing the blood an opportunity of exit through the triangular divisions, a more permanent effusion will ultimately and beneficially find its way to the identical vessels, otherwise destructively overcharged. I have thought, indeed, that lives have been occasionally trifled with by cupping, when the apparently less scientific mode might have been attended with the most salubrious effects.

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## LEECHING TO EXCESS.

Sir A. Cooper frequently observes, that the most disastrous consequences follow the indiscriminate employment of blood-letting, and adds, there is not to be found, in the whole range of surgical mal-practice, a greater error than this, by which nature is deprived of her great restorative resource. "*In medio tutissimus.*"

A vigorous child, ætatis 15 months, affected with pneumonic symptoms, was quickly relieved by repeated leeching. A few weeks subsequently, the disease returned. Leeches again alleviated, but did not entirely remove the symptoms. The pulse increased in fulness and strength, and fever and dyspnœa returned, when leeching was a third time resorted to. As this state of uncertainty continued so long, it became doubtful whether the restored

vigor of the pulse would cease so long as the patient existed. A death-like paleness came over the diseased subject, similar to anasarca ; and the kidneys ceased to secrete. As a diuretic, I ordered common gin mixed with sweetened water ; but at the end of five days the case terminated fatally, leaving a painful uncertainty in my mind, whether we had not carried the depletory plan to an undue extent, though the vigor of the pulse appeared to justify the propriety of the measure ; and all attendant parties, as well as myself, were satisfied that the accompanying fever and dyspnœa were at first proportionably relieved thereby.

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## LEECHING AND CINCHONA.

The combination of bleeding and bark was apparently so incompatible, that the theorists of the day required an explanation from Dr. Saunders, when he was accustomed to lecture on the practice of physic, in the years 1790, 1, and 2. "Gentlemen," said he, (addressing his students,) "you will find it needful occasionally to regard this rule of contra-indication." But the profound Doctor never condescended to reveal the mystery to his poor plodding pupils ; thinking possibly that we had not capacity enough to fathom his northern erudition.

I was called, on three different occasions, to relieve a Walcheren intermittent, in the case of Miss

G——, ætatis 20, a native of Holland. The cinchona and Fowler's solution did not make the desired impression in suspending the paroxysms until local depletion was added.

I was compelled to resort to the same mode of treatment in the case of Miss S——, ætatis 13, and finally in my own person, all with the best effects. Stubborn theorists, intent upon the why and the wherefore, I leave for wiser heads to contend with. My stars placed my natal soil south of the Tweed.

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ON THE CLIMATE OF LONDON.

[*From the London Medical and Physical Journal, 1820.*]

I believe it was a saying of Mr. Cline's, many years ago, "that London was the healthiest spot in all the world." Subsequent experience and observation have at least established this reputed fact in my mind. In this far-famed spot, of a certain number of acres, there are (in an ordinary ratio) from one million to one million three hundred thousand inhabitants; the greater number of whom enjoy uninterrupted health; I mean amongst the sober, industrious, cleanly, and moral portion of the community. Making all reasonable concessions on the score of advantages resulting from the improved construction of sewers, rounding the corners of narrow streets, and the constant ebb and



flow of the Thames, I think the happy exemptions the inhabitants for the most part enjoy, result from the sulphureous naphtha emitted from the coal, serving the salutary purpose of checking the deleterious agency of febrile affections, whatever the nature of that agent may be ; for it is an indisputable fact, that whilst the reports of medical men teem with complaints of the prevalency of fever, we must also acknowledge the mildness of the febrile character in the Metropolis, and sometimes it is altogether wanting.

I have for so many years had occasion to observe this fact as to typhus, that I cannot doubt it ; and I believe, also, it is the same as to scarlatina. Dr. Lettsom used frequently to ask me, “ What is the condition of other cities where coals are burnt ? ” I cannot tell. Drs. Willan and Sims expressed themselves pleased with the idea that I have thrown out, and the former urged me exceedingly to give it currency amongst my medical brethren. To prove that the air is saturated with sulphureous naphtha, it is certain that we shall not be able to recognise the presence of a wasp for ten years together in this region, an insect to which sulphur is positively obnoxious. However, as practical utility is my particular object, I am exceedingly happy to bear testimony to the beneficial revolution which has taken place in the medical world, which is still aspiring to an attainable perfection. We no longer witness the awful destruc-

tion of human life in febrile cases, by the *early* introduction of stimuli, under the delusive theory of Brown, but are substituting potent and decisive means of the first order of importance, where the inert saline draught was formerly resorted to and depended upon. Besides, as knowledge of every kind is happily advancing, we generally meet with so ready a concurrence, in fever cases, amongst surrounding attendants, with respect to free ventilation, total abstinence from all nutriment, and a steady conviction of the beneficial use of remedial measures of indubitable energy, that we have less to apprehend as to the result than formerly; I cannot, therefore, help anticipating a period when the medical routine (comprising an occupation of the highest importance in the social circle) will partake far more of pleasing congratulations, than of chilling disappointment.

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#### ON THE LUNAR CAUSTIC IN INJURIES OF THE NAILS.

Very recently, one of my daughters, by a casual prick from a pin at the root of her finger nail, caused an ulcer which, as I feared it would as soon as it was shown me, dislodged the original nail. I endeavoured to impress on the minds of all my family the propriety henceforward of making me early acquainted with all such occurrences. I think that had the injured part been touched

with the Lunar Caustic at the commencement, we should have saved a tedious course of domestic solicitude; but, as "all things work together for good," so this among the number, as more serious evils may in future be prevented, from the trouble it occasioned. Had the wound inflicted by a needle, in the person of Dr. Pett of Clapton, been touched at an early period with the Nitrate of Silver, it is more than probable that his valuable life might have been spared to the community. As far as my experience goes, the instant application of this valuable caustic is not fully appreciated according to its intrinsic merits, in small and painful divisions of the skin by the sides of the nails, as well as in more important ulcerations on the prepuce, or on the glans penis, &c. Blows inflicted upon a nail, producing instant and permanent pain, may frequently be relieved by permitting the part to be exposed to the dropping of cold water, without the tedious process of paring the injured part with a sharp instrument, and letting the congealed blood escape. The cold water, as far as my experience goes, relieves the pain, produces absorption, and precludes the inconvenience of all the customary teasing consequences.

We are informed, that in all the dissecting rooms in Paris the Lunar Caustic is always had recourse to on every occurrence of incision, even the most minute. Surely it behoves us to imitate so salutary a caution.

Sir James Earle used to say, that a surgeon who suffered the syphilitic poison from a chancre to form a bubo, was worth nothing, as, by the timely application of the Lunar Caustic he might prevent such a deposit.

I think indeed with Mr. Wray (the useful and scientific practitioner in Fleet-street) that the Nitrate of Silver is by no means duly appreciated by us. For my part, I touch every division of the skin without any regard to the characteristic distinctions of pseudo or genuine syphilis, and I have never had occasion to regret the practice, but quite the contrary. I once saw a syphilitic case attempted to be cured by Opium to the exclusion of Mercury, and which terminated fatally; but I shall never feel myself authorized to adopt unwarrantable experiments, when the life of a fellow being (as important as my own) is at stake.

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ON MAGNESIA IN CALCULOUS COMPLAINTS.

During my attendance on a very excellent family in Old-street, I was conversing with Mrs. H—— on a domestic visitation; and on a sudden, a little boy of delicate appearance came in, and our conversation was abruptly suspended. I suspected, by the awkward gait of the boy, that there was stone in the bladder; and every reply to my inquiries confirmed the suspicion. He had long



laboured under pain in the region of the loins; and there was frequent appearances of calculous matter in the urine, together with pain at the glans penis, on pushing forward the prepuce; and there were occasional interruptions in the flow of urine. Having, thirty-four years ago, seen the operation of lithotomy performed so frequently at the Norwich Hospital, I anticipated the most gloomy results, although in that excellent receptacle for the sick I never remember an instance of a fatal termination in young subjects. Having read Mr. Brande's paper to the Royal Society, recently published, on the effects of Magnesia in similar cases, I advised a trial of it; and, on the second day, a large quantity of uric acid (red gravel) was expelled; and the medicine being continued, in the course of a few days, all anticipations of lithotomy vanished. The subject now appears, from the occasional use of Magnesia, to be completely relieved from calculus, and the grateful parents are ever prompt in acknowledging their obligations.

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Master T——, ætatis 13, was subject to occasional formation of uric acid, (red gravel,) possibly derived from hereditary taint. On being visited by severe paroxysms of head-ache with a full pulse, he was requested to try the total abandonment of animal food, and live upon vegetables only. The relief was conspicuous and decided

from this plan, without the smallest abatement of health, but with a countenance ruddy and cheerful as David's. My young patient needed no argument to induce him to persevere, so long as he derived sensible benefit in an exemption from all pain; and after fourteen months' trial, there had been no emission of the concreted secretion from the bladder. From his incapacity to retain urine long, and from a sense of weight bearing on the bowels, as portending an ordinary evacuation, and disappointing the party,—I became alarmed and ordered a tea-spoonful of Magnesia to be taken every night. At the end of the fifth day, there passed off such a quantity of calculous matter as excited my surprise, and in accordance with the reported testimony, not uric acid, but pure phosphate of lime, confirming the opinion of the influence and effect of animal food in generating that acid. All distressing symptoms now wore off, and we laboured under no further apprehension of stone in the bladder. The capacity of retaining more urine also existed, together with a perfect immunity from the deceitful sensation of want to evacuate from the bowels. Had the Magnesia failed in making a useful impression, I intended to have called in the aid of the *Sal Sodæ*.

## MANIACS SHOULD NOT MARRY.

As we have no positive law prohibiting persons affected with different degrees of aberration of mind from entering into wedlock, those who possess influence and authority over them ought judiciously to exercise it. Morbid disorganization of the brain may be transmitted from one generation to another, to an indefinite period, propagating misery to a boundless extent. The Rev. ———, of Norwich, contrary to the earnest expostulations of his friends, persisted in marrying a beautiful woman, whose mind was frequently eclipsed by cerebral disease. The fruits of the marriage were one son and two daughters. When these children arrived at the period of puberty, they all became maniacal, and that without intermission. They were patients of my venerable master Dr. Alderson, which furnished me with occasional opportunities of beholding the melancholy circumstances. The maniacal symptoms varied in each, exhibiting a character quite *sui generis*. At that time we knew nothing of the virtues of the ground-ivy; though, even if it had been employed, I should not have been very sanguine as to its success, judging as I did, that some morbid disorganization existed in the brain. The exterior of the patients was symmetry itself. A progeny possessing any degree of eccentricity, (to say no

more) is far from being desirable, and the less so, when it threatens to entail upon posterity a certain calamity.

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## FATAL INSTANCE OF MEASLES.

Two children of Mr. T——, of King-street, æt. 4 and 6, caught the measles during cold weather. The symptoms were unusual, the room was kept moderately warm; three leeches were applied, and the bowels were well attended to. By way of making “assurance doubly sure,” blisters were put upon the chest, which were, in the one case removed at the expiration of the fourth hour, and in the other, at the sixth. Anxiety began to subside, when a dark-coloured appearance was observed upon the vesication of the eldest, which, as they both lay in one bed, shortly communicated itself, probably by sphacelus, to the youngest, setting at defiance all attempts to arrest its progress; and both fell victims apparently rather to the remedial means that had been employed, than to the measles. This is a lamentable reflection; and if it be asked, what could occasion so much caution in respect to the use of blisters? I reply—the first fatal instance that came to my knowledge was the consequence of my own prescription, more than twenty years ago, in infantile pneumonia. The impression was consequently indelible. Mr. Cline (my excellent



preceptor) was subsequently consulted in a similar case, which also terminated fatally ; and since that period, my valuable friend Mr. Butterworth has lost a child at a boarding-school, under similar circumstances. I find it is the opinion of some thoughtful practitioners, that the intervention of bibulous paper will correct the apprehended evil ; but in such case, during the tardy operation of the blister, disease may make fatal advances.

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#### THE MEDICAL CHARACTER

Is privileged above most others. Mr. P—— exclaimed, “ My dear friend, how favoured you are in your professional department. You see me recovered from a threatening fever, with my attentive wife and ten children smiling upon me. Oh how unworthy am I to be thus favoured. There is indeed a reality in religion. None can tell what nature is able to endure ; but I would willingly pass through all again to be put in possession of the peace and joy which I now share : God has indeed wrought wonders of grace, and I will sing his praises. Join with me.” “ You say truly,” I replied, “ ’tis a delightful occupation. I was yesterday entreating a dying fellow creature, oppressed with water in the chest, to secure a residence in the ark ; for there is no safety but in Christ ; and urging him to ‘ Behold the Lamb of God, which

taketh away the sins of the world,' whilst he had yet the power to do so."

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## MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

Gentlemanly etiquette is indispensably important in preserving a respectful and generous feeling towards the useful and most necessary fraternity of practitioners ; but chiefly in rendering prompt relief under anomalous visitations. Custom and politeness have sanctioned and supported laws which all are bound to observe. Christian precepts advance a step beyond this ; and require us in honour to " prefer one another ;" and to " avoid all appearance of evil." It is sometimes necessary to call in a medical man during the absence of the practitioner who usually attends the family. This gentleman must be recompensed for his time and services, but should not repeat his visit or protract his stay, unless requested, after the return of the original confidant. In such cases, if it be accouchement, the fee, be it what it may, is generally divided. A few years ago, I visited the endeared spot where I first inhaled atmospheric air, and found two fools (they are as welcome to the honourable title as they are worthy : *non timeo*,) whose disputes had risen to such a height as to cause them to publish a declaration, that they would not meet in consultation. " Ah, gentlemen,"

said I, "you want some metropolitan politeness; we inhabit the regions of royalty, and bury all our little animosities at the bed side. Whatever lurks within, we are sure to let our patients see, by shaking of hands and customary civilities, that they stand some chance of enjoying the advantage of our united knowledge; and Solomon says, 'two heads are better than one.' What, in the name of common sense, (to say nothing of humanity and gratitude,) is a population of forty thousand souls, exposed to innumerable diseases and casualties, to be thus insulted by your paltry differences? Perhaps you are not aware that you are subjecting yourselves to the severe animadversions of a Nisi Prius Court, and, if I were a juror, I'd rap your puerile knuckles."

I once had occasion to remonstrate with Dr. John Houghton, who constitutionally possessed five grains of hauteur more than was absolutely proper in a physician. He resented a supposed insult, which I am confident was not intended, and threatened to withhold his valuable services. "Doctor," said I, "if you do, you are not probably aware that the injured parties may have their remedy and redress from the civil law." "I dispute that point," said he, shaking his sagacious head. "I'm not fond of contradictions," I replied, "but I think my assertion would be borne out if the trial were made."

An excursion to the North rendered it necessary

to transfer my practice, pro tempore, into the hands of a confidential practitioner, and he discharged his trust faithfully, with one single exception. Upon resuming my customary routine, I met my old medical friend ; but, after his ungracious conduct, I was not prepared to be very cordial with him. “ Mr. ——,” said I, “ you are a native of Germany, and should have been acquainted with the Dutch proverb, that “ There is nothing got by stealing, nor lost by praying.” As the family however preferred the latter to the former practitioner, I had no alternative, and walked away. A few months afterwards, I again accidentally met Mr. —— . “ Ah, good morning,” said I ; “ well, how do you come on with H——, the family in Queenhithe?” “ Eh G— ! Sutcliffe,” cried he, “ you said very true ; for I was literally kicked out of doors there a few days ago.”

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MEDICAL MEN SHOULD COMMUNICATE INFORMATION TO  
THEIR PATIENTS.

It was an invariable rule with my venerable master, to explain to his patients the probable cause of complaints, and the best method of combating them. This method, he observed, flattered their understandings, and all men love to be deemed wise. In practice, I have long experienced the value of this advice. I was lately very much



chagrined, on calling upon an excellent widow, to pay a condoling visit under new and distressing circumstances. Hearing of the happy termination of the pilgrim's course, I naturally made inquiry respecting the disorder which ended her husband's course. "Why," said she, "we called in Dr. ——." "A very wise choice you made," said I. "Say you so?" "Certainly." "Well, we never could get him to say what the complaint was. He always replied to our questions, that he never gave names to diseases amongst his patients." My general rule is to make the best apology in my power when murmurs reach my ears; but I was so indignant at the *sang froid* and affectation of superiority in this case, that I felt it my duty to join in the censure.

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## MEDICAL REMUNERATION.

The public generally do not seem to be aware of the expense necessary to the mental equipment of the student in medicine; and, subsequently, the daily risk, when in practice, of his personal health and life, by inhaling pestiferous air.

When my unalterable predilection was formed in favour of medicine, and I was removed from the classical care of Dr. Samuel Parr, it pleased Providence to place me with Dr. Alderson, whose example I purposed to imitate, on the subject of remuneration.

neration. From the poor he received very sparingly, but from the rich he insisted on a suitable reward, always at the same time making it appear that the obligation rested with the patient, and not with the practitioner. I have never lost sight of the correctness of these views.

When Dr. ——— was lecturing, conjointly with Dr. ———, on Abortion, he advised his pupils, (myself among the number,) when ladies were desirous of being thought pregnant, and were under a delusion, by no means to undeceive them, adding, forsooth, this grave reason, that, in the course of his practice, he had stated frankly his fears in two instances, and lost the preference of both the parties. The contempt which I felt for such advice, I have not words sufficiently severe to express as it deserves.

Mrs. Hannah More has truly observed, that “Independence is not known in this vale of tears;” and a greater authority says, “The earth is for the profit of all, and the king is served by the field.”

Upon this subject the character and spirit of the parties afford ground for determination and judgment. I have attended a family for more than fourteen years, and never yet sent in a bill; but they occasionally present me with a small compliment for my services. They increase and multiply so rapidly, are so commendably industrious, and possessed of genuine piety of the first order, that I feel I cannot do a better work for them, than

continue my services as long as they shall prefer them under such circumstances. The excellent maternal parent also of one of the parties I had the honour of enjoying the confidence of, till the termination of her earthly pilgrimage. She was, indeed, truly characterised by that "peace which passeth all understanding."

If the general practitioner complain of the paucity of patients, it is more than probable the fault rests with himself, and indicates, perhaps, that he has been running up a needlessly lengthened account for professional services, or is not, by constant study, keeping pace with the intellect of the day. If such be the case, it will not be wonderful that he is supplanted by a moderate and scientific successor. It cannot be concealed that the feelings of the community, when compelled to call in advice, promptly apply to the highest source of information privately, superseding the necessity of demand for the general practitioner. There is wisdom in such a choice, provided they succeed; but who, it may be asked, is the best qualified agent? Whose brains are most compact? Where lies the superlative acumen? Dr. Matthew B—— says, that in the whole fraternity who have been properly educated, there is not a distinction of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. This is very candid, and perhaps, for the most part, correct. If there were not occasional discrepancies, perfection would be unattainable. As in ethics, so here, we each prefer our own, and thus

occupy and store every distinct cell in the congregated hive. My excellent mother used to say, "So long as I can but have Edward Rigby, I would not give thanks for the services of all the faculty conjointly."

I used to be occasionally consulted as to the phraseology of physicians' prescriptions, by a chemist, at whose shop wagers were laid amongst the noviciates, and I was appointed the umpire when disputes arose. Unhappily for the poor patients, I was occasionally out of the way, and then I was informed by one of the party, that they put up the medicines as near the truth as they could guess!! I have often thought how completely all the liberality of the distressed relatives calling in a consultation of the first talents of the day, might thus be rendered abortive, and possibly life be prematurely trifled away by the ignorance of a chemist's shop-boy. O! 'tis the most stultified absurdity to "count the cost" where health and life are at stake. It is justice, however, to observe, that business is now conducted in a more scientific and safe manner in the firm referred to.

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#### ADVANTAGES OF MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

The advantages attendant upon medical associations are strikingly obvious, when an individual appears in a public capacity as the organ of the



general body of useful practitioners. It is about eight or nine years ago that an occidental star of the first magnitude was summoned to the bar of the House of Commons, on the subject of the Walcheren fever; but his information on that matter was so scanty and contradictory as to raise a blush on many cheeks for the honour of the most useful profession upon earth. I flatter myself, that had that physician associated with his scientific brethren a little more frequently, he would not on that occasion have cut so contemptible a figure. When I was lately expostulating with one of this easy tribe, he, with native *sang froid*, replied, that he was quite satisfied with his information. "Well, then," said I, with some warmth, "I don't envy your satisfaction."

What was Dr. Lettsom's estimate of human attainments, after more than half a century's professional labour in the Metropolis and its vicinity, realizing between 6000*l.* and 7000*l.* per annum? Why, no man was more punctual and zealous in encouraging medical associations. What is the present character of the professional services of Dr. Clutterbuck, but a steady uniformity in transmitting information of the most valuable nature to those who are deriving the intended benefit in the associations with which he is connected? I often think what an answer such weekly associations give to the libellous charge of the healthy multitude, that "doctors care only for their fees,

not for their patients." The public little think of the labour of brain attendant upon the preparatory routine of study, and the exposure of life which, from day to day, professional men prematurely hazard. But, still, what an independence of spirit does that practitioner possess, who feels he stands on high ground, and can set at defiance, if necessary, all indirect obloquy respecting his scientific acumen; and can welcome, without fear of exposure, the scrutiny of any talent of the day. If we err, and "to err is human," the discovery is confined to our own bosom, unless we choose, on mature deliberation, to give it wider currency, hoping, by such means, to preserve life from impending destruction.

How largely are we indebted to Dr. Walshman, whose venerable period of life, combined with his energy and activity, it may be fearlessly said are without precedent or parallel! With peculiar urbanity he ingratiates himself into the good opinion of those from whom, in minor matters, he may differ; and when he is called upon to state his opinions, with what decision, with what dignity and independence, does he delight and edify us, not only "*suaviter in modo*," but "*fortiter in re!*" Many a time, when it has been necessary to curb the impetuous ebullitions of the youthful practitioner, has this been accomplished by him, with such grace and efficiency as often to bring to my recollection the late Rev. Richard Watson, Bishop

of Llandaff, when presiding as moderator in Cambridge, between the disputant wranglers! Dr. W—— well recollects the saying of the late Dr. Curry—"that the next generation of theorists will smile at the zeal and confidence of the present." How often have we noticed the futile reasonings of a young diplomatic rebutted by a simultaneous whisper of surprise from the sounder and more sober practitioners, perfectly aware that the ground is utterly untenable; and, on the other hand, how cordially has the experience of the gigantic practitioner been generally recognised and approved! Who can calculate the measure of advantage elicited during the debates of a single evening? I should reckon, indeed, that practitioner unworthy of the public confidence, who should presume that his judgment is infallible, or who is not aspiring after increased knowledge, by associating with his brethren.

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#### ON THE DISCREPANCY OF THE MEDICAL WORLD

The poet says—" *In medio tutissimus ibis* ;" and a wiser man prays—"Give me neither poverty nor riches." It is generally admitted as an indisputable axiom, that the golden medium is the best, both as it respects intellectual faculties and wealth, either for safety or satisfaction. What a suitable preface is this to physic! "Much every way." When I commenced the practice of gravely feeling the

pulse in Norwich, from 1786 to 90, the talented practitioners were unquestionably ultra-Brunonians. A feeble and frequent pulse was always associated with debility, and necessarily Wine, Ether, and Cinchona were resorted to; and as the success appeared to bear a proportion to the quantity of stimulants swallowed, the typhoid patients, and others who sunk, were never considered as having had their exit accelerated by these measures. I can witness for one, whose success in practice was so great, and of whom it is reported that he never used the lancet, that his ordinary fees brought him in 6000*l.* per annum.

On the other hand, we believe we have a superior method of subduing febrile symptoms by the lancet, emetics, purgatives, and the usual antiphlogistic plan. One of the stars of the first magnitude in our Metropolitan hemisphere recently assured me, that where he formerly employed 5*l.*'s worth of Cinchona, he does not now prescribe so many ounces. Have we not all acquired this wise predilection? Nevertheless, it must be admitted that the rage for reducing arterial excitement is by some equally excessive, as though no other part of the human economy were implicated. Besides, why has nature been so bountiful in her resources? all of which must have some specific action of a salutary character, since "nothing is formed in vain." The chief of these, indeed, have certainly a purgative tendency. I do conceive that the



principal superiority amongst medical men consists in a peculiarly discerning acumen,—fixing on the precise point where we are to cease to pull down, and on the precise moment when we are to begin to build up. Although it be not legitimate language, in the present day, to admit of the term *collapse*, yet, I must be permitted to retain it as most expressive of that period during which, if we withhold stimuli, either medicinal or gratifying, our patients will sometimes inevitably sink from exhaustion. I anticipate that the day is not very distant when we shall calculate the premonitory symptoms of collapse as correctly as we now do an eclipse, and that we shall be able to provide accordingly.

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## MERCURY IN SYPHILIS.

A case exhibiting the ill effects of an unnecessary proportion of Mercury in Syphilis, occurred in a Porter of Mr. H——'s, an extensive orange merchant in the city. This man had contracted the lues, and was so bad as to require surgical attendance at his own apartment. The master, however, was too indignant to permit my daily attendance upon his servant, under such circumstances, and imperiously insisted upon his removal to an hospital; and, doubtlessly by way of inflicting punishment, he urged the necessity of completely drenching him with Mercury. From this time I lost

sight of my patient, and expected to see him no more labouring under syphilis ; but in about seven weeks afterwards, I had a hasty summons to visit him at Bartholomew's Hospital, when it was expected he could not long survive. Upon entering the foul ward, I could scarcely recognise the features of my quondam patient. Perceiving that he had been unnecessarily overdosed, I promptly urged his removal, withheld all mercurial remedies, and substituted the Decoct. Sarsæ alone ; under which he rapidly recovered, is now a lusty man, and my surgical powers have been very far overrated in consequence of his rapid recovery.

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## FATAL METASTASIS.

Mrs. G——, of Aldgate, at a critical period of life, about the time of menstrual cessation, had a full pulse, laboured under spontaneous hæmoptysis of extreme severity, which seemed to threaten her destruction. This was suddenly followed by quickness of pulse (120), considerable pains in the evening, violent perspirations in the morning, and a rapid reduction of muscle. On the removal of the patient out of town, these alarming symptoms quickly receded ; but, contrary to my directions, she returned prematurely to her town residence, when she shortly experienced a recurrence of the original symptoms, and whilst I was waiting for

nature's indications how to plant my artillery, a sudden and unexpected metastasis to the head supervened, which, at the expiration of the third day, carried her off. I have since reflected upon myself that I was not more prompt in treating this case by the lancet.

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THE INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF MUDGE'S INHALER, IN THE  
TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS PULMONALIS.

Mr. John Comley, æt. 24, had, several years ago, suffered exposure to cold and wet, in his useful occupation of a carpenter; and, being of a delicate temperament, he soon betrayed, under such unfavourable circumstances, a tendency to phthisis, for which, whilst the parties are under the influence of London air, we have no curative means upon which we can place much reliance. The sequel was, rapid emaciation, cough, expectoration, pulse 120, &c. This young man was the intimate friend and inseparable companion of the Reverend Alphonsus Gunn, whose solicitude for him was exerted to the extreme. He asked me if any thing could be done. I referred to the late Dr. Haigh-ton, who recommended the occasional use of Mudge's inhaler; but under its use, the symptoms appeared to acquire increased severity. The unassuming placidity, and the peace and sacred joy associated with the last moments of the patient, will never be erased from my mind. His surviving

friend, Mr. Gunn, sunk under the loss ; he visibly declined in health from that period of bereavement. Some profane priests were desirous of expelling him from the church at Old Fish-street-hill, and lodged a complaint against him, on the pretence, that the church was like a theatre, and it was in consequence, considerably injured. The complaint reaching the ears of Bishop Porteus, (O ! that we had many such bishops,) who, with characteristic decision, said, “ Would to God I had such a Gunn in every church in my diocese.” We all must bear witness that Mr. Gunn was indeed a Boanerges. I reveal no secret when I affirm, that for his professional labours he received less than twelve pounds per annum ! and thus are some of the labourers in Christ’s vineyard recompensed ; and yet, with this small pittance of income, in the ardour of holy friendship, he undertook to raise fifty pounds, if he could but save his dear associate. It was the nearest resemblance to the recorded love of Jonathan and David I ever expect to witness. The unadorned tablet now placed opposite the pulpit, speaks more than a volume.

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## NERVOUS IRRITATION.

Miss Eliza G——, a lady of peculiar vivacity of manners—susceptible of the warmest attachments, and hence exposed to ingratitude (which was severely experienced under peculiar circumstances)



was an inmate in a family where the varied talents of Medicinæ Doctores, in behalf of a maniacal patient, were exerted with much patience and perseverance, but without success. She subsequently witnessed the whole process of the juice of Ground Ivy, and the complete and permanent triumph of that despised herb. Spasm and flatulency were the characteristic features of her temperament. Squills and Opiates constituted her medicinal dependence. I felt my obligations to her epistolary services, in cases of mania, particularly in the case of the late Duchess of Chandos, and mentally promised, as long as I lived, or as long as she valued my services, that I would be at her command gratuitously. About twelve years ago, she breathed her last: the final seizure was attended with no uncommon character. Expectorants and vesications appeared to answer every indication requisite; and it remains in my mind doubtful whether the fatal termination was owing to spasmodic struggles, originating in diseased organic derangement. Her hope was real and animating, and she often repeated the lines:—

“ Since all that I meet  
Shall work for my good,  
The bitter is sweet—  
The med’cine is food;  
Though painful at present,  
’Twill cease before long,  
And then, O, how pleasant  
The conqueror’s song!”—NEWTON.

## OXALIC ACID.

This acid has been so destructive to human life, that the legislature have done meritoriously in enacting cautionary laws to prevent any further spread of desolation from its unwary use. It were to be wished that the evil had been sooner foreseen and prevented. A medical gentleman gave a dose of medicine, believing it to be Magnes. Sulphas, to his own daughter, ætatis 16, which was not suspected until swallowed. The consequence was, that she expired in less than fifteen minutes afterwards.

I was recently in the company of a practitioner, whose servant had swallowed a dose by mistake. In the painful extremity, led perhaps by an intuitive faculty, he caused as much Magnesia to be swallowed as the stomach could endure. The pain instantly began to subside, and it finally effected a perfect cure. He suggested that Chalk might have answered the same purpose. A few months ago, I was trying, with the assistance of my son, the reported test of the change said to take place by the removal of the blue colour from paper, when it is immersed in the solution of the Oxalic, though, as it is said, it will not be affected by its immersion in a solution of Epsom salts. To our surprise, however, we discerned no sensible difference whatever. We really should not be imposed upon where human life is at stake. The royal stratagem

of Charles II. with the Society of Philosophers, in his day, was justifiable and excellent; serving as a caution to all the wise men of the west, how they venture to solve scientific and enigmatical discussions, without due heed and previous trial. Tests of a dangerous character should be so developed and distinctly laid down that there might be no possibility of error or mistake.

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## PAINS IN THE KNEES.

J. H——, Esq., ætatis 75, who had been a bon vivant during the chief portion of his existence, retired with a fortune of 80,000*l*. He was unmarried, and a victim to ennui. For the last fifteen years I have enjoyed his confidence, and was lately consulted by him for pains in the knees. His diet is usually generous, but scanty in solids; his pulse, like the stocks, always above par. Cupping and aperient medicines appeared to have warded off impending apoplexy; but the pain in the joints of his knees had increased to such a degree as utterly to preclude all possibility of sleep. The pain came at intervals; but not by regularly intermittent paroxysms. For the relief of this affection, no adequate remedy has hitherto been devised. Leeches have been long made use of, and occasionally with some slight degree of advantage. The party is aware of the plethoric character of his system, and

appears fully disposed to continue their application. I feel jealous of employing remedial measures which would be applicable in some instances, under the probability of a fatal metastasis affecting some one or other of the vital organs. There is nothing morbid discernible either by touch or sight. One complaint of my patient was, that he could not endure genuflexion at church. "O, Sir," said I, "it is the posture of the heart that renders the worshipper acceptable. David sat in his house, we are told, and gratefully rehearsed the tender mercies of God towards him and his household."

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PARALYSIS SUPERVENED BY SPINAL INFLAMMATION TRAVERSING UP TO THE CEREBELLUM.

A Lady, *ætatis* 24, hastily stepping out of a coach, fell with such violence that she was unable to rise. The lower limbs became instantly paralytic and perfectly insensible. The recumbent posture, and the local applications of cupping, leeches and vesication, in some measure restored her, when a seizure, as by metastasis, (probably arising from a deficiency in the depletory measures,) suddenly ran up the whole length of the spine, visiting, and expending its violence upon, the cerebellum—the reputed organic residence and origin of the sensual passions. Nymphomania, with all its attendant horrible circumstances, became con-



spicuously manifest, both by words and actions; but without perfect consciousness, and necessarily without criminality, as it was the manifest result of the disease, not of the disposition. The moveable artillery of local depletion was directed to the citadel, and all parts adjacent, viz. the superior parts of the spine, implicated in the disease. After a few more weeks of medical interference, the delicate subject resumed her accustomed activity with unimpeached chastity, proving the potency and efficiency of the healing art.

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“PARTURIENT FEMALES SHOULD FIRST ASCEND.”

Dr. Lowder used to smile at this superstitious law, telling his pupils that the first case he attended was in an attic story, and that while waiting for the uterine paroxysms, he said to the communicative attendant, (for even doctors must sometimes gossip) “Pray, how is this good woman to go up stairs before she goes down?” “O, Sir,” said the nurse, “we shall get a pair of steps.”

In the course of my practice, I have met with many who entertained this idea, from whose good sense I should hardly have expected such a superstitious opinion; but it is like another every-day occurrence with us in this bustling Metropolis, when delicate females, intent upon the pursuit of what they consider “good luck,” disdain to be re-

tarded by the inconvenience of a ladder reared against the side of a house, and step into the carriage-way, as regardless of mire as a soldier, in the prosecution of his duty, is of danger. I have however thought that the universality of the idea, that parturient females should ascend before they descend, implies a general feeling of spontaneous gratitude for the divine assistance on these trying occasions, which, although so common, is nevertheless wonderfully conspicuous, from the presentation to the expulsion of the secundines. But, those who know not the gratification derived by the giver from praise and thanksgiving, will, of course, rest in the mere *bodily* exertion.

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#### A PECULIAR AFFECTION SUBSEQUENT TO PARTURITION.

Mrs. A——, of Hoxton, ætatis 25, after being confined with her third child, complained of an unusual difficulty in walking, which she attributed to a slight slip prior to delivery, though this was considered at the time of no moment. At the period of her accouchement she anticipated relief; but although her delivery was accomplished under the most favourable circumstances, the lameness increased, and she became utterly incapable of making the slightest muscular exertion. It seemed to be a sort of sympathetic affection, and after a very minute investigation, the dorsal vertebræ appeared

the seat of all the symptoms. Cupping, leeches, and vesications to the part affected, were the order of the day, which, after considerable perseverance, accomplished the end desired.

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CAN THE RUPTURE OF THE PERINÆUM ALWAYS BE  
PREVENTED ?

As an accoucheur, I have been considerably pressed by this inquiry during a period of many years. I have never been so unfortunate as to meet with a case of rupture of the Perinæum in my routine of practice; but have consulted with several who have; and can conceive that the uterine efforts, left to unassisted nature, may be so violent as to overcome the ordinary resistance, and leave the party suffering, for the residue of her days, under deplorable circumstances. What may be necessary under the use of the forceps, is not the present question. The late Dr. Squires, from a conversation I had with him, thought the accident was mostly, if not always, to be prevented. He narrated a circumstance which had recently occurred to one of his pupils, where the parturient patient, just at the expulsion of her first-born, sprung suddenly out of his reach, and, to use his own phrase, "the perinæum rent like a glove." This inquiry being put to Dr. J. King, of New York, his reply was, "Most certainly:" adding, "do not the terms

of the obstetric art imply as much?" Mr. George Young is decidedly of the same opinion. I am at a loss to explain the universal preference, amongst parturient females, of the aid of male to female practitioners, unless it be, that less violence is used in assisting nature by the former than the latter.

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#### THE CRITICAL PERIOD WITH ADVANCED MATRONS.

This subject is of incalculable importance. Common observation has supplied us with the conclusion, that when these valuable vessels are brought safely into port, unequal henceforth to encounter perils, the residue of their time must be occupied in passive enjoyment in the domestic circle. Having had recently some experience under my own roof, on this interesting subject, I am led insensibly to the conclusion, that considerable attention is due to females at that period. One, a single lady, of a full and vigorous habit, very narrowly escaped apoplexy, the menacing symptoms of which were instantly removed by the lancet frequently repeated. A diet almost exclusively vegetable preserved the bowels open; and water drinking precluded all head-ache. In another case, the pulse was not full enough to bear the lancet; but an incipient metastasis to the encephalon (manifested by an indescribable sensation in the head, requiring leeches and cupping,) was met by the full operation of cathar-



tics, change of scenery, and travelling by short stages, for the benefit of rough riding over the stones; which appears to have attained for the parties all the advantages calculated upon.

I feel persuaded, from innumerable instances which have come to my knowledge, that many a valued female has been laid up, and has required painful attentions from anxious relatives, who, by seasonable and scientific exertions, might have continued to enjoy the busy hum of the industrious bees in the hive allotted to her by Divine Providence.

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#### PHRENITIS SUPERVENING UPON PNEUMONIA.

Mr. Warne's child, of Great Queen-street, ætatis two years, a few years ago required medical aid, while labouring under acute pneumonia. It was relieved by the full operation of the antiphlogistic plan, principally depending upon leeches at first, and subsequently upon extensive blistering. The usual advantages seemed to result from the measures adopted. The breathing was less oppressed, the pain which attended the cough was removed, and the pulse appeared less full; but while the symptoms began to assume a favourable character, the head became implicated, as if by metastasis: all medical means were subsequently rendered abortive, and the child died.

The post mortem appearances exhibited the

lungs in a state of tolerably good health, with the exception of a general appearance of inconsiderable vestiges of former inflammation, which had been subdued some time before death, and certainly not in so great a degree as satisfactorily to account for the death; the head, however, exhibited the palpable criteria of active and universal excitement, accounting at once for the destructive result which had taken place.

It may be well to mention, that I am aware that phrenitis is not so correct an expression as could be wished for the inflammation exhibited in this dissection, which was not confined to the membranes, but pervaded the whole hemispheres throughout.

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PERITONITIS.

Mrs. F——, of Trinity-lane, ætatis 25, a strong and vigorous subject, I found labouring under ardent fever, anxious countenance, bounding pulse, and extreme tenderness over the whole abdominal region. I removed, without hesitation, a large quantity of blood, ad deliquium, which was quickly distinguished by cup and buff. I followed up the bleeding by the application of a blister as large as a pair of bellows, and directed the party to dissolve Gum Arabic with every drink, as that gum is generally found to prevent the painful absorption of the Lyttæ. The blister answered fully

in the present, as it does in most cases where this caution is observed ; and its removal on the following day presented extensive vesication, except on one circular part, where it had puckered up, which prevented its due operation. On very moderate pressure, there was no cognisable sense of uneasiness throughout the abdominal region, except upon the sound skin, where the flies had been precluded from acting, proving the propriety of the measure. Nature, however, was competent to relieve herself after what had been done, and convalescence supervened rapidly.

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OVARIAL PERITONITIS.

Mrs. R——, of Surrey, three weeks subsequent to accouchement, became feverish, and experienced pain in the abdominal region. Fomentations afforded relief, but the symptoms returning, required more potent measures, and two other medical men met me upon the subject. The result was, the application of several leeches to the parts principally affected, the application of which it became necessary to repeat on every recurrence of the painful paroxysms, and they finally triumphed over every vestige of disease, leaving the interested parties sensibly grateful for medical interference.

## PUERPERAL PERITONITIS

Occurred in the person of Mrs. U——, of College-hill, four weeks after accouchement. The painful symptoms resisted every application, until the lancet was liberally made use of. Leeches, fomentations, and aperient medicines, alleviated the symptoms, but the relief afforded was only temporary. The subject (incapable of lactation) was so exceedingly delicate as to induce the postponement of the use of the lancet as long as possible ; but the blood drawn exhibited such a decided character of inflammation, that I felt sorry I had not resorted to the vigorous and effectual measure earlier. The relief now became permanent, and by the third day convalescence was established.

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 WHETHER PUERPERAL FEVER IS INFECTIOUS ?

Whatever be the essential agency latently giving rise to the untractable malady of Puerperal Fever, remains mysterious : the best mode, however, of combating the formidable adversary may be the candid statement of medical facts, with the issue, whether adverse or prosperous. That an effluvia of a peculiar character, *sui generis*, is emitted from the diseased womb, is universally admitted ; on the infectious nature of which it may not be immediately possible to decide ; and men the most successful in practice have denied *in toto* the assertion



that it is infectious. I cannot call to remembrance an individual instance where contagion has been transmitted; but when I heard Mr. —, a most extensive accoucheur, affirm, in the midst of twenty-four or twenty-six medical men, the afflicting fact, that he has had eight parturient patients lying dead at the same time, under this disease, I felt the appalling assertion harrow up all the sympathies of my nature! What! say I, is an accoucheur welcomed in a family as an angel of light—and is it possible that he can carry pestiferous fumes about his woollen garments from house to house, communicating the destructive and deadly effluvia to his healthy patients? Heaven forbid! Some have made it a point to change their apparel upon retiring from Puerperal Peritonitis. One gentleman whom I know, boasted that he had practised for thirty years without meeting with any untoward event, and finally lost his own wife!

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PHTHISIS, ATTENDED WITH UNUSUAL RAPIDITY.

Miss Eliza E——, of Hoxton, ætatis 18, was of a very delicate temperament from her birth, and was reared up with great maternal tenderness. The catamenia were procured by cautious perseverance in medical measures. A civic procession of a gew-gaw nature invited her to participate in the gaieties of the day, and she obtained a seat at a

corner house of St. Paul's Church-yard, where she was exposed to a thorough current of air and bright sunshine, on a cold November day. She was unwell at the time, which, added to the other circumstances, were sufficient to hew down a much healthier plant. Upon returning home in the evening, her sister exclaimed, "Eliza, what is the matter with you? Your face is as blue as if it were frost-bitten." "I have only got a cold," was her reply. Two days afterwards, I was sent for. The pulse was feeble, and 130. Knowing that our usual medical resources were incompetent to effect a cure under such circumstances; and having, about this time, been told of the success which had attended small and divided doses of Tartrate of Antimony, as administered by our lively and communicative neighbours across the water, I was glad to avail myself of the opportunity of trying it, and began with gr. j. per diem. The impression of the medicine was perceptible for a few days, it having reduced the pulse to 120; but the pulse soon recovered its awful and hopeless rapidity. Inevitable death staring her in the face, she became inquisitive about prospective safety. During the last three weeks, her glistening though emaciated countenance beamed ineffable satisfaction, on the recital of the design of the mission of the great Redeemer into our fallen world; and she sank in perfect peace within less than three months from the commencement of the attack.

The pious mother exclaimed occasionally, "I do not know how we can sufficiently recompense you, Sir: it is indeed the lion turned into the lamb. You know I slept with her, and latterly, whenever I awoke, I found her uniformly in the exercise of prayer or praise."

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PHTHISIS RESCUED BY EXTENSIVE VESICATION.

Martha M——, resident under my roof between nine and ten years, exposed herself to cold by imprudent conduct, at a time when no monitory eye interposed. She became, in consequence, a victim to Pneumonia; for the relief of which there could be found no substitute for bleeding; by which the purpose was instantly answered. "I can now breathe," she observed, "and," to use her own significant though uncouth phrase, "I find there's a passage now." The necessity for repeating the operation became so frequent, and at the same time so urgent, that we were compelled to resort to dephlogisticated air in rural scenery. The pneumonic symptoms, however, continued to harass her, and the lancet was the only remedy. I should presume that, during the space of two months, this robust and vigorous subject was blooded on eighteen different occasions, and certainly not less than ten ounces taken from her at a time.

Now, as might have been expected, phthisis begun to be developed, and her return to town would

have been inevitably destructive, affected as she was with rapid wasting of muscle, morning perspirations, evening chills, flushed cheeks, cough, expectoration, and pulse 120. There was abundant reason to fear the result of these symptoms. "Well, Martha," said I, "you have seen enough of disease under my roof to know that these symptoms lead directly to your heavenly Father's mansions: we know you are well prepared: death will be your gain, and we all hope to join the blissful company of just men made perfect." "But life is sweet," she observed; "can't you prescribe something else, Sir?" "If any thing can rescue you," I said, "though I have no great expectation of success, it is the application of a large blister." She applied one full double the size I usually recommend, so as to cover the entire chest, keeping up an oozing by the usual means. She recovered, now appears in high health, without a vestige of pneumonia or phthisis remaining, and occasionally calls to express her gratitude.

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Mrs. S——, of Bishopsgate-street, while exposed to a warm and confined atmosphere, neglected the necessary precaution of defending the chest. On returning home, she was seized with a severe attack of Pneumonia, for the relief of which bleeding, blistering, and the customary routine of the anti-phlogistic regimen, were adopted. Presuming upon



the original vigor of constitution, the convalescent plan of atmospheric improvement was never thoroughly persevered in, and a teasing cough, quick pulse, regular emaciation of muscle, evening flushings, morning perspirations, but too correctly furnished a bad prognosis. The poet justly says, "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." Mrs. S—— dipped into every medical volume that she met with, and conceived that she was in consequence wiser than all her medical friends.—Smiling with confidence, she averred that her disease was only asthma, and that she should live as long as any of us. The ravages of disease were too undisguised not to leave us destitute of hope ; but her expiring moments were accompanied with "that peace which the world cannot give."

I have so repeatedly witnessed the restorative powers of country air in incipient phthisis and in hemoptysis, that I believe many a valuable life is sacrificed to an undue reliance on a variety of medical agents, who are all laudably solicitous that their patients should recover *secundum artem*.

Phthisis Pulmonalis is often checked after the parties have passed through an ordinary febrile case, and the pulse maintains its usual celerity, by a withdrawment from the phlogistic atmosphere of London, after the failure of all our remedial exertions. The circumstances of many may not enable them to travel to a distance ; and provided they are out of the reach of gun-shot, the purpose will often

be answered ; two miles, or even less, being equally as effectual as twelve. Nature has so admirably arranged it, that our Metropolitan fumes, which are really beneficial to sound, though very prejudicial to unsound lungs, are so soon dissipated into the upper regions, that we need not travel far ; and it is perfectly immaterial whether we take the northern or southern direction, as long since proved by the predilection of those practitioners resident north or south of the Thames ; and the fact is, we can visit our patients with more facility, if necessary. My plan has been, during twenty years past, as soon as the tender patients have disgorged unhealthy bilious matter, and cleared the furred tongue, to consider that my province ceases, although the pulse may obstinately preserve the rapidity of 120 ; and I advise them, without loss of time to call a coach, take with them a basket of buns, and get out to Pentonville, there spend the whole day, sipping occasionally of milk, returning home before sunset, of course. Calling on the following day, although long accustomed to witness such delightful scenes of convalescence, I have been surprised at the visible improvement of the party, and not less so at the great reduction of the pulse ; and frequently have I exclaimed, “ Here is the secret. This and that great man, who have made consumption their peculiar and selected study, would keep all their patients immured within the walls of the city, while the Pentonville atmosphere would rescue

them from the yawning grave, without one additional draught or bolus."

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## PHTHISIS PULMONALIS.

Whether tuberculated lungs, and at what assigned stage of the disease, can transmit infection to lungs perfectly healthy, is to be determined only by experience. Reasoning *à priori*, it is difficult to admit the possibility; but a very limited intercourse with consumptive patients will compel us to renounce all scepticism on finite and corporeal subjects; whence it is so generally observed, that young practitioners, who are intent upon receiving nothing but what is traceable to some fair and legitimate ground, (the reasoning is most excellent,) will not admit the infectious quality; and, *vice versa*, enlarged experience teaches us increasingly to caution growing or youthful lungs not to approach too near, or be too long exposed to diseased lungs; for "facts are stubborn things." However difficult to explain, it is impossible soberly to deny the fact, that multitudes perish annually, who were not justified by such a hazardous exposure. After the period of fifty, I presume there is not much fear of a capability of thus admitting disease to a healthy subject.

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In the autumn of 1800, I was asked if I wished to see a triumphant saint expire. "Much more,"

I replied, "than to see Rome in all her pristine or present glory." I was accordingly directed to call on Mrs. W——, of the Surrey-road, which I did, in whom I beheld the nearest approach to an animated skeleton I ever expected to see. She instantly recognised me (having often met me at the sanctuary,) and shook hands feebly. She was "on the mount of God's unchanging love." I could say nothing, but silently admire the adequate supports which God gives to his believing Israel. "Dying is but going home," was the burden of every sentence she uttered. She asked to be raised up in bed, that she might read the 19th chapter of Revelation, which she went through, making suitable comments *en passant*. Becoming fatigued at the close, she sank down and fainted. I withdrew, fearing she had unduly exhausted herself. Before my departure, however, I suggested to her husband and her pious sisters, that, as there was no expectoration, the case ought not to be abandoned to despair. They smiled, as if doubting the possibility of her recovery; but I sent Infus. Marrubii. When the medicine reached the house, that excellent pastor, J. R——, D.D., was present. He urged the patient to take some, saying, it would afford satisfaction to her friends. The pulse was, at the time of my first visit, 130; by the next day it was 120; and, in another week, 92. She became inquisitive as to her probable recovery; but I deemed it prudent to postpone a reply till the fol-



lowing day, when I expressed my hopes that she might yet do more good in the world; but my patient received the intimation with tears. She has long since retired into Warwickshire, and for the last fifteen years has been corpulent. I meet one of her sisters occasionally, from whom I hear of the continuance of her good health.

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Mrs. B——, of Fleet Market, laboured under phthisis, expectorating purulent pus as from a vomica. She took Horehound tea, and recovered. Her recovery I attribute, not to medicine, but to the defence afforded to the sound lung by the mediastinum—that admirable contrivance for the preservation of life under exposures.

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To the same anatomical precaution I attribute the recovery of the Rev. E. D——, of Islington, an enlightened clerical character, for whose labours in the Established Church it is to be presumed that God has given him “souls for his hire and seals to his ministry.” Nature has made admirable provision, by sight and hearing, both of which senses have great power in warning us of danger, and doubtless by many other faculties of which we have no adequate conception.

## ON THE TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS.

As individual cases of this disease are too numerous to detail at length, general conclusions will therefore suffice. After patients have submitted to many and long-continued privations by local irritants, the antiphlogistic regimen, and inhaling country air, they have, on prematurely returning to London occupation, fallen victims to a rapid recurrence of the evening chills, the morning perspirations, and a uniformly frequent pulse. These relapses being attributed to a want of skill in the medical adviser, other opinions are consulted, prescriptions are necessarily written, fees taken, confidence cherished in the deluded believer, and irreparable mischief done. I have often been deeply grieved at this trifling with immortal beings; and fear that no small share of guilt attaches itself to such proceedings. I have likewise witnessed a persevering "continuance in well doing," viz. a rigid abstinence from all irritating nutriment; local extraction of blood, and subsequent vesications; and absolute withdrawment from our metropolitan atmosphere (so salubrious to the vigorous lungs), reinstate patients in perfect and permanent good health, though I had scarcely ventured to excite a hope.

In some instances, an artificial Madeira climate, i.e. a room constantly heated to 65, appears to

have established permanent vigor. This succeeded in the instance of two females, at the same period of life, viz. 35. At other times, a current of cool air (without dust or moisture) has been necessary to secure the same advantage. Dr. Babington, my honoured preceptor, justly says, that each case has somewhat in it *sui generis*.

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#### WHETHER PHTHISIS PULMONALIS BE INFECTIOUS?

This subject has very much divided the attention of the medical world, and possibly at present the question is far from being wholly set at rest. Those who date their observations from the incipient stages of that insidious malady, would probably reply to it in the negative, and, *vice versâ*, in the affirmative. Hence the difficulty is obvious. Much ought doubtless to be taken into the account of hereditary temperament and tendency; and of exposure to causes and circumstances calculated to rouse into action latent germs of disease, even when it is not directly transmitted.

Besides, we should recollect that the anti-contagionists are, for the most part, younger in years and experience than the contagionists, who are principally the older practitioners. My opinion, founded on and confirmed by growing experience, is, that the danger of inhaling diseased breath is considerable.

## PHTHISIS TRACHEALIS.

Mr. L——, ætatis 46, wine merchant, was delicate from a child. For more than fifteen years I had inforced on him a peremptory protest against exposure in damp cellars, accompanied with a bending posture of body, as peculiarly inimical to his tender frame in general, and his lungs in particular ; but his anxiety for business, stimulated by large orders at home, and larger from the continent, rendered him absolutely deaf to my remonstrances. So fatally beguiling are the sweets of commerce. Occasional and violent coughs having been often relieved by Oxymel of Squills and Paregoric, tended to induce too much presumption upon his vigor. At length the secretion within the trachea sensibly diminished, and, finally ceasing altogether, ultimately implicated the lungs, according to my apprehensions. Rural scenery possessed not the charms of damp cellars, and when compelled to resort to the former, it was only upon the spur of the mandatory precept : “Thou shalt not kill.” Life was somewhat protracted by local vesications and by unremitting domestic attentions ; but the blow had been given, and, intelligently composed, he finally sunk to everlasting rest.



IS FEVER OR BLEEDING THE MEANS OF INDUCING  
PHTHISIS ?

If the one position be denied, it is presumed the other will not. *Ex. gr.*—We are called in to a case of general fever, contracted possibly from exposure to cold, with no manifest indication of any individual organ being particularly affected. The patient not being robust, we prescribe the whole routine of antiphlogistics, with the necessary addition of the lancet, varied according to the impression made upon the symptoms ; the diseased subject, in four or five days, approaches towards convalescence, but the violently accelerated pulse does not abate with the other symptoms ; I say that, without extreme care, the subject will become phthisical, and unless removed from the influence of the metropolitan atmosphere, will inevitably become a victim to the disease. It is too palpable that we possess no remedial resources at all adequate to combat the evil successfully, under such perilous circumstances.

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ON THE DANGER OF SWALLOWING PINS.

Needles may travel in a variety of directions in the human body, and generally with impunity. I recently saw one removed, upon post mortem examination, which had actually penetrated the whole

organ of a kidney. The needle had spitted the kidney in such a manner that it appeared like a lark neatly trussed. The chalybeate character of the needle precludes, it is presumed, the general injury; and the parts on that account are probably protected from ill consequences. It is not so with pins, having for their basis the poisonous metal, copper, and coming in contact with particular parts, they probably derange the structure for life.

A young lady, just on the eve of marriage, swallowed a pin. The immediate effects were an altered tone of voice, that quickly degenerated into a variety of cadences, over which she had no control. The ardour of the lover was cooled, and the intended match was postponed *sine die*.

A relative of mine by alliance is supposed to have swallowed, at different times, not less by computation than seven or eight pins. She is continually unwell; but we have all a difficulty in determining the precise cause.

At the present period a young female is labouring under most anomalous pains, to explain which, one who was consulted inquired whether she had swallowed a pin. Swallowing the yolks of eggs afterwards, and exciting vomiting, is said to have succeeded in returning the pins, in some instances, with a mass of coagulated mucus enveloping the extraneous and annoying metal.

## PLEURITIS.

I was lately summoned to Mrs. H——, of Queen-street, ætatis 58, after she had endured pain and fever for upwards of twenty-four hours, accompanied with chills. Having never before seen her in a professional character, I thought some caution necessary, prior to deciding what steps it would be eligible to take.

A case of many years standing led me to the possession of a fact, the practical influence of which I hope never to forget. A Lady, conceiving that she ought to have done, privately visited Dr. H——, who, not aware of the delicate character of her temperament, ordered her to lose blood, which she did, and the result was not only the defeat of the expectation of rapid recovery, but an instantaneous development of a train of nervous symptoms, which greatly distressed her with ennui by day and restlessness by night. The case required four months uninterrupted attendance, under a variety of tonics, to restore her; and all was fairly traceable to the injudicious loss of blood.

Mrs. H——, the pleuritic patient under consideration, was a nervous, agitated subject, with a pulse, though somewhat wiry, not requiring the lancet; at least it was not thought advisable to resort to it till the effect of cupping had been tried; the evacuations by which answered every

purpose. Pulv. Antimon.  $\mathfrak{z}$ j. Calom.  $\mathfrak{z}$ ss one dose, binding the ribs, cough drops, with Oxymel of Squills and Paregoric, were the medicines prescribed, to the end of the third day, when the patient began to plead for a little fluid nourishment.

We were contented to restrict the remedial measures to cupping, &c. The blood exhibiting neither buff nor cup, it was expected that the diseased party would become immediately convalescent ; but, contrary to nature's usual indications, the patient continued to enjoy a good appetite, and, what was worse, the predilection was rather for animal than vegetable food. The pains in the side increased. Dyspnœa, with an inability to lie on one side, and a diminution of the renal secretions, gave occasion to fear incipient hydrothorax. Venesection (with a good pulse) was now suggested, and as readily complied with. Two basons half full were extracted. On the succeeding day, the contents of the first bason exhibited buff, satisfying me (notwithstanding high opinion to the contrary) that inflammation existed. The contents of the second bason were less buffed ; but the crassamentum possessed a sufficient resistance to make me wish that a few ounces more had been taken. The pain and dyspnœa had now nearly ceased. No solid food was permitted : the kidneys had acted well. I now left her to her own resources, by enjoining attention to daily purgatives, and a rigid abstinence from heavy food.



## AMPUTATION OF THE PENIS.

This operation appears to subject the mutilated party to an incapacity to free micturation the residue of his painful existence. If the healing art be found incompetent to prevent a contracted orifice by any artificial interference, we had better leave the process to nature (when it will be safe), whose restorative powers are so superior (as far as my experience extends) as not to entail such a series of sufferings.

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## PNEUMONIA UNSKILFULLY TREATED.

Mrs. W——, of the Minorities, ætatis 68, laboured under pneumonia with dyspnœa, and a full pulse. On account of her advanced period of life, I contented myself with the use of topical applications and expectorants. After the severity of the paroxysm, I had the mortification to find her (though apparently recovered, and the anxious parties considering I had achieved a good work) labouring under an asthmatic affection, which I secretly attributed to an absurd apprehension of the ill effects of the lancet. Although I did not, I think, curtail her existence, I certainly abridged the active usefulness of the good lady during the residue of her life, which terminated in Christian joy about two years ago. Dr. Hamilton's writings (of Edinburgh), adverting to the all-powerful efficacy of purgatives

in inflammatory diseases, led me into a too fatal reliance on that remedy.

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## CASES OF PNEUMONIA.

In the month of March last, Miss B——, of Hoxton, ætatis 19, was seized with fever, accompanied by pain in the chest and difficulty of breathing. When medical aid was called in, the usual depletory remedies were employed : considerable relief was obtained by blistering, purging, digitalis, &c. The fulness of the pulse seemed to authorise the use of the lancet, and about twelve ounces of blood were taken, the character of which justified the evacuation ; but the evacuation appeared to be succeeded by an instantaneous increase of all the symptoms. As the pulse continued full, the question now became necessarily serious and important, as to what measures were to be pursued. At this juncture I was requested to see the party ; and we agreed, in consultation, that, although the pulse was full and bounding, justifying *in toto* the measures hitherto pursued, no further relief was to be expected by venesection, from a fear that phthisis pulmonalis might subsequently be produced. We had the pleasure to witness the gradual recovery of this delicate female ; though with indubitable symptoms of hectic, but which, by care in diet, and breathing her native air at Hoxton, ultimately subsided.

I have no hesitation in affirming, without the fear of contradiction, that this female would have inevitably fallen into phthisis pulmonalis, had the venesection been repeated two or three times more. Again I say, "*Audi alteram partem.*"

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Miss H——, of Nicholas-lane, ætatis 21, from exposure to cold about three months before, laboured under fever, which had been ushered in by difficulty of breathing, cough, &c. Although she was by no means athletic, the fulness of the pulse at once determined the propriety of venesection. The relief from it was instantaneous: the quantity of blood extracted was about sixteen ounces. It is scarcely necessary to add, that demulcent drinks constituted her whole support; and that blistering the chest, purgatives, digitalis, &c., were added. The cough, however, returning, with a full pulse, a second bleeding, to about the same amount as the first, was resorted to, and with the same advantages. In three or four days more, it was found necessary, from the recurrence of the symptoms, to repeat venesection in about the same quantity, even to the sixth time (the blood invariably exhibiting criteria of highly marked arterial excitement). After this, steadiness of the pulse returning, health began to appear, and convalescence slowly supervened.

During this train of formidable symptoms, much

pus was coughed up, with mucus of a strongly saline taste and occasionally streaked with blood. The sputa were copious and purulent. The parents and anxious relatives of both these young ladies, for a season, considered their cases perfectly hopeless. I have to add, that, within these few days, I have had an opportunity of inquiring after their welfare, and am assured that not a vestige of disease remains. It may be right and candid to confess, that the parties persevered in the diligent use of every means recommended, and, being pious characters, submitted with readiness to every salutary discipline.

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An endeared relative, Mrs. M——, ætatis 56, frequently the subject of pneumonic symptoms, resident in a northern satellite of the Metropolis, called on me for my advice. Her medical confidant had always refused to prescribe the letting of blood by the mildest means; judging, no doubt, that her delicacy of constitution would not admit of the operation, and sending in *Haust. iv. vel vi. per diem*, till nature had effected a cure. This was always my idea of the plan, and it was at once satisfactory to the patient, and productive to the practitioner. The present seizure, however, appeared so unusual in severity, that to observe my customary concurrence would have been palpably injurious to the suffering party. Though the pulse was full, I ven-



tured no more than to cup above and below the mammæ to § xv. Relief to the breathing was very sensible during the flow of blood, and we did not suffer her to return home until the next day. She had a good night, under the influence of Oxymel of Squills and Tinct. Camphoræ Compos. Expectoration was accomplished with much facility; and the blood exhibited full proof of the propriety of the measures which had been adopted, and superseded, for the time, the necessity of further recourse to medical aid.

This circumstance reminded me of an anecdote related by Dr. Haighton, of scientific notoriety. He was sent for by Mr. A——, a neighbour in the Borough (whose medical confidant had recently died), whom he found labouring under high inflammatory action. The patient refused to submit to the loss of blood, because, forsooth, his medical friend (who knew his constitution well) had constantly affirmed that he ought never to lose blood. “Why,” said Dr. H., “he must have been a d——d clever fellow, who could know what diseases you should be attacked with throughout life.” “I’ll do nothing without the lancet,” continued Dr. H.; and very wisely, on this being refused, said, “Then, I’ll not prescribe till I have another physician called in.” When this was done, the other physician concurred with the judicious proposal, the patient submitted to the operation, and convalescence quickly supervened.

Mrs. P——, of Bridge-street, is frequently subject to pneumonic affections ; and, although a delicate lady in the extreme, she is always relieved by the lancet being moderately employed ; no vestige of disease remaining after its use. She is at present in full possession of perfect vigor.

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Mr. ——, of Doctors' Commons, ætatis 58, of dissolute habits and athletic temperament, required my services. I commenced with the lancet, purgatives, expectorants, &c. The blood showed both cup and buff, and relief was the immediate consequence ; but the pneumonic symptoms returning in two days, bleeding was repeated with similar advantageous effects. This process, however, we were compelled to resort to so frequently, (about nine or ten different occasions,) that I was under the necessity of forming a more cautious prognosis than I had hitherto done. Just at this period (through the goodness of God to his happy and united people), our beloved King, George IV., had recovered from a severe attack of pneumonia ; and his amiable brother Edward, Duke of Kent, had just expired at Weymouth, under the same disease, and, as was generally thought in the Metropolis, for want of the more liberal use of the lancet. In reply to the numerous inquiries put to me latterly concerning my patient, I was obliged to hesitate in pronouncing an opinion, whilst dutifully "hoping

all things," still doubting whether the termination would be similar to that of the King or his brother ; and I pressed upon his mind the passage of Scripture—" Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world." After three weeks of unremitting attention by day and night, I had the mortification to witness the unfavourable issue of all attempts to prolong life. The fatal termination of the case I am inclined to refer rather to the former intemperate and irregular mode of life of the patient, than to any immediate circumstance.

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I was called to the Child of a Professional Gentleman, and instantly prescribed leeches to the chest. At my evening visit, I found that my prescription had been superseded by that of another medical man, who had most injudiciously substituted cupping ; and, to mend the matter, the cupper had preferred the lumbar to the thoracic region. I was grieved at the unseasonable interference, for the little patient was evidently worse rather than better ; and I could only say, " You might as well shoot at Napoleon from Dover Castle," (it was during the height of the Peninsular war.) On the subsequent day, as I expected, the child died.

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Mrs. C——, of Doctors' Commons, sent for me to see her little boy. He had laboured under high

pulmonic symptoms for three days. The breathing was so quick that I despaired of rendering him any service, and was preparing to take my leave under that impression, thinking, as Dr. —— said, “I am not an undertaker, but a physician.” The astonished mother exclaims, “What, can you do nothing for my child?” This maternal and impassioned question called me back. I replied, “You may try the effect of leeches upon the chest.” The evacuation was so profuse and efficacious, that the next day I pronounced him out of danger.

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A Child, ætatis 14 months, (too old to be under lactation,) exposed to the steam issuing from soap suds, came under my charge. Leeches of course were the *sine quâ non*. One orifice oozed all night; the parties were alarmed, and were for having it stopped. “No:” I said, “the pulse is too full, and the act of coughing is painful; by no means interrupt it; life may be sacrificed to your injurious fears.” The next day the bleeding still continued, the pulse being as full and the coughing as painful as before. “Let it bleed,” I said; “the child must look pale, of course: that’s of no consequence.” Another day and night passed over in a similar way, when the pulse yielded, the coughing ceased, and he could now smile on his anxious mother. I had seen, by post mortem examinations, so many decided proofs of destructive



inflammation, as led me necessarily to regret that I had not been more liberal in the use of leeches. The long-protracted oozing in this case proved the propriety—yea, the necessity of the measure.

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## PNEUMONIA AND HYDROTHORAX.

Mr. H——, ætatis 42, of Bishopsgate-street, an old associate, of sterling character, was put through the customary routine of bleeding, blistering, and the rest of the antiphlogistic system. The subject was, from a child, of very delicate temperament, and had particularly feeble lungs, which were sometimes unnecessarily exerted “to aid the church’s psalmody.” His new friends set a higher value upon their medical confidant than he did upon his old friend, and, insisting that he should be called in, the patient yielded accordingly. He was bled, by which he felt relieved; but it was thought advisable to repeat the operation to the third time; when dyspnœa supervened, followed by incapacity for the recumbent posture, and his valuable life terminated. The best possible mode of relief was doubtless resorted to; but it will be a source of grief until my closing scene, that I was deprived of the opportunity of witnessing the *modus operandi*.

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Mrs. L——, of Watling-street, expired three weeks after delivery, under pneumonic symptoms.

It unfortunately happened that in this case two practitioners were in attendance—the accoucheur and the apothecary, each intent upon his own department, and each scrupulously jealous of giving offence by invading the province of the other. Neither of them seemed to be aware of the dangerous character of the complaint, and when the medical confidants met by appointment, it was but too evident that the patient was already beyond the bounds of ordinary hope, and she accordingly expired on the following day, as if by hydrothorax. The blood extracted put on the appearance of a super-carbonated mass.

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PNEUMONIA AND PLEURITIS.

A female Servant was seized with severe fever, accompanied by unceasing pain in the parts affected, and short breathing. She had been without sleep for three days, at which period she was bled by the arm to lb. j. with no sensible relief. The next day, six cupping-glasses were placed along the lower margin of the ribs and scrobiculus cordis, and  $\text{℥ xvij.}$  of blood taken. Relief was instantaneous; the patient slept even under the operation, and continued sleeping a few hours, taking occasionally deeper and deeper inspirations. She awoke entirely free from pain, which returned no more.

## PUERPERAL MANIA.

Mrs. B——, ætatis 25, was attended by Dr. —— with her first child. The milk fever was very high, and the lochia had ceased. On delirium commencing, the infatuated nurse indulged her mistress with a quantity of red wine. The family became alarmed for the consequences ; and having heard that I had succeeded in some maniacal cases, I was requested to meet the Doctor. The pulse was 130, feeble and thready ; the bowels torpid. From the state of the patient, we could indulge but feeble hopes of her recovery, and three days afterwards she died ; but previously furnished the anxious attendants with a composed assurance that she should meet them in a happier world, where the sorrow of separation was unknown. Mrs. B. had been decidedly pious the few last years of her existence, and moved in the highest rank north-west of Town.

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Mrs. V——, ætatis 24, was confined with her first child. The bowels having been neglected, fever supervened, the lochia ceased, the abdominal pains were considerable, and furious delirium had existed three days, when I was called upon. Leeches to the temples, cold evaporating lotions to the head, and the whole routine of the anti-phlogistic

remedies were resorted to, which succeeded in a few days in restoring this lady to the society of which she was a brilliant ornament.

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Mrs. S——, ætatis 30, confined with her third child, had laboured under mental aberration for the last five years, when she unfortunately became pregnant, and has since sunk under phthisis pulmonalis.

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POISONOUS MEDICINES.

Being introduced very recently to a most respectable practitioner, whose name, though not his person, was familiar to me, our conversation commenced with his expressing surprise that the fraternity in the healing art should be so much attracted by the poisons. He principally adverted to the preference shown by Dr. ——— to this class of drugs. As I had visited one of the Doctor's patients a few days prior, (whose praises of the Doctor were justly great,) I promptly caught at the coincidence of feeling which his remarks evinced existed between us, by replying, that so long as I saw alarming symptoms yield, in a reasonable space of time, to the use of ordinary means, such as I would readily adopt in my own person or family, I should not be soon persuaded to relin-



quish them, much less to supersede them by trying hazardous experiments. These may be very proper upon quadrupeds, though not on bipeds. Science of every description is undoubtedly on the march towards perfection, and the healing art in particular is making rapid advances ; but human life is a most sacred charge, requiring the constant exercise of the tenderest conscience duly to appreciate its importance. I had no anxious feelings to stifle (though I commend the candour) on the cool recital of one whose patient became permanently idiotic from one dose of the Stramonium ; or the account of another who slept to death three infants by three drops of laudanum.

Tobacco-water, which, in the language of the trade, is the concentrated juice oozing spontaneously upon ordinary pressure, is a most destructive enemy to vermin, small and large. This potent quality has induced some to employ it externally to the scald head, (that unmanageable malady) ; and not a few have made use of it so abundantly as to induce soporific death.

Many, no doubt, under ptyalism, raised and supported with needless severity, have had phthisis prematurely induced, or permanent deterioration of the constitution caused. It is but just to acknowledge that (calculating according to my present information,) some lives may have been sacrificed under my own management, for want of a more vigorous application of the lancet, and other

curative and efficient measures. In confirmation of the value and efficacy of the lancet, Dr. — says of Dr. —, who never uses that instrument, that he lets his patients die very comfortably. When I heard this censure, (well knowing the parties,) I could not help thinking there was too much justice in the observation, severe as it is.

Poisonous medicines, in the form of Fowler's Solution and Carmichael's Solution Flav., have occasionally excited my uneasiness during their necessary administration. In order to relieve myself from doubt, I have appealed to stars of the first magnitude for a rule of guidance, but could never obtain satisfaction, the answer being uniformly, that such is the general practice. I have then urged the possible occurrence of calamity, in the event of which I could never be exculpated in the eye of the community: the circumstance of having administered poison, though but in gr.  $\frac{\text{xxxij}}{1}$ , would never be forgotten or forgiven by a captious public. I was obliged seriously to remonstrate with an officious female (who esteemed her medical knowledge superior to that of most persons) as to the former solution; and of the latter, I felt myself compelled to withhold the further use in the case of a gentleman in Bloomsbury, fearing, as it was, that his imprudence would have cost him his life, and me my "good name."

Recently, a medical man lost a beloved son, during a disease which he hoped was curable, (as,

in our moments of hilarity, we toast “a copious crop of curable complaints.”) The patient had the opinion of “all the talents” in favour of his recovery ; but death suddenly extinguished hope ; and the distracted father, wrung with the bitterest reflections upon the inutility of medicine, gave vent to his feelings in the following expression:—“What with *Cicuta*, *Hyoscyamus*, *Stramonium*, *Hydrocyanic*, *Digitalis*, and *Arsenic*, our poor patients have hardly a chance of dying a natural death.” I sympathised with the bereaved parent, whose melancholy truism brought to my recollection the observation of Dr. Lettsom, in the year 1805, that he had seen the *Digitalis* “kill twelve patients.” I have never felt the least disposition to place reliance upon hazardous medicines. We possess potent remedies, which are capable of great effects when applied with skill and caution.

For the last thirty years, it has been continually asserted in the medical circle, that the use of Fowler’s Solution (the least ambiguous of all the poisonous medicines,) leaves a strong tendency towards the formation and future development of paralysis. Are we justified then in resorting to such expedients? Should we swallow such medicines ourselves? There must be experiments made, I grant, towards the attainment of perfection in the healing art ; but, in the name of common humanity, let the experiment be made upon the canine species, before the life of the noble

creature, Man, be placed in jeopardy, by resorting to unauthorised means, in order to subdue a temporary malady.

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AN INQUIRY RELATIVE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE SYMPTOMS WHICH PROVED DESTRUCTIVE IN THE PERSON OF OUR LATE UNFORTUNATE QUEEN CAROLINE.

If my information be correct, there existed in this case high arterial action, attended with abdominal inflammation. The antiphlogistic and depletory measures were pursued, and with obvious advantage. In order to ensure success, (for "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety,") Dr. M. B. was summoned, who speedily arriving from a distant county, pronounced a favourable opinion as to the issue; deduced probably, from the uncommon vigour of the pulse. Although we fully admit that there is a peculiar insidiousness in the symptoms attending Enteritis and abdominal inflammation, (of the truth of which I was a mournful spectator in August 1821), yet I have still to learn the medical reasons for continuing that fulness of pulse, whilst we have the sovereign remedy at hand, namely, the lancet. I expected the post mortem appearances would have developed such a degree of inflammation as would have thrown satisfactory light upon the subject; but we all know how greatly we were disappointed by the royal prohibition. It will, I presume, not be



deemed invidious to doubt whether Dr. B—— had a proper sense of what he owed to his fellow creatures, when his anatomical accuracy was restricted to four in-door patients per diem, and when he was chiefly desirous to confine his outdoor services to difficult cases where an additional physician was deemed expedient. I well remember the impression made upon the public mind about eighteen years ago, respecting the case of the amiable Duke of Bedford, who laboured under an incarcerated hernia, which slipped down beneath the truss while he was playing at racket. His Grace positively refused to submit to the operation at Bedford, his place of residence at that period, and sent expressly to Town, whilst valuable time was lost, and upon exposing the bowel, it was found sphacelated. He understood his situation, made his will, disposing of his immense property in three lines, and expired !

Any Surgeon, with a sharp penknife, could have liberated the bowel, and saved a valuable life ; but however much this mistaken perverseness is to be deplored, it may lead to a due appreciation of the medical aid within actual reach. We are all too much disposed to value that which is distant, to the neglect of that which is near.

It seems to be generally admitted, that arterial action runs unusually high at the commencement of sphacelation. Does not this state of things show, either that the depletory process has not

been sufficiently resorted to, or that nature is struggling inefficiently with a ponderous load of matter, which finally bears down the victim?

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## RANULA.

Mr. Cline, a gentleman to whom I owe more than a heart full of gratitude enables me to express, used to tell his pupils, that, while he was engaged with a patient, a solitary individual in an adjoining room was suddenly seized with violent struggles as if suffocating. Upon hearing the extraordinary noise, he instantly repaired to the room from whence the noise proceeded, and found a person on the floor in convulsive agonies. He caught him up on the spur of the moment, and, inspecting his mouth, perceived a ranula under the tongue, which was thrust backwards to a prodigious extent. He instantly penetrated the salivary sack with a lancet, and gave liberty to a large quantity of viscid fluid there secreted, but for the liberation of which, the poor man would soon have fallen a victim to suffocation.

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## AN UNEXPECTED INSTANCE OF RECOVERY.

Miss J——, æt. 13, of Thames-street, was, on the maternal side, hereditarily disposed to phthisis; insomuch that ten years ago the most extreme

caution was necessary to prevent a fatal issue. This was happily prevented by a regulated temperature, (an artificial Madeira one of 65°), and subsequently, in the spring, by a removal into Devonshire. This lady is unusually tall, and has had catamenia once. The circumstance which principally excited alarm in the parents' minds was a gradual wasting. There was no cough nor acceleration of pulse. I prescribed no medicine, as there appeared no physical indication. By simply attending to the primæ viæ, I found we were rather on the decline than the advance towards restoration, and I therefore urged the prompt removal from the carbonated London air as the only expedient. Before, however, conceding to me, Dr. F—— was requested to see her, who instantly recognised hepatitis; but after the trial of a fortnight under the customary process of Blue Pill and Calomel, as in similar circumstances, the disease was stated to be marasmus. The mesenteric glands it was alleged were diseased and enlarged, precluding the possibility of furnishing nutriment in the usual way; and of course, there was no alternative but wasting and death. Under this prognosis, my situation was not very enviable. I valued the acumen of Dr. F—— more than most men; not only from his unremitting attention to myself while labouring under hepatitis, but from a very long acquaintance with him. Opinion is like the atmospheric air, independent and free;

and we all have an equal right to inhale it. Hence I recurred to the original position; and although the cold weather was not in our favour, yet I insisted upon it, that Kentish Town was preferable to London. Here I feel disposed to charge my medical fraternity with no small share of blame in detaining phthisical patients in London air, while we have undeviating proof, in so many cases, of the complete inertness of all our remedial agency. For two months we were tossed upon the sea of uncertainty, and at one time daily dissolution was expected; but at length my interesting patient rallied, and at the expiration of four months, returned home with an excellent appetite, cheerfully giving thanks to God, to whom only praise is due.

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## RENAL AFFECTION.

Mr. H——, a solicitor, ætatis 60, and a bon vivant, but of the superlative order in legal acumen, in the act of elevating a ponderous box full of parchments, to examine some testamentary documents one Sunday forenoon, when he had better have been at church, strained his loins so considerably, that the slightest exertion produced most violent pain. Upon inspecting the case, knowing how ill such characters bear the lancet, I ordered cupping; which being postponed till the following day, I took from the arm half a pint, and by cupping subsequently, a pint and a



half of blood. It contained its due proportion of crassamentum: but without inflammation. The expected relief not following, it became necessary to vesicate the whole lumbar region; which by treatment with mucilaginous diluents in considerable quantity, and total abstinence from food, he was in five days enabled to return to his office; though I was at one time apprehensive, owing to the severity of the pain, of an incipient abscess.

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## REVULSION

Is a doctrine not yet exploded by the older practitioners; but I never could feel any confidence in the opinion, although Dr. Lettsom retained it to the latest period of his active services. Doubtless nature will furnish us with an amplitude of salutary suggestions which may be followed up and prosecuted with the happiest results, as in diseased spines, spontaneous ptyalism in mania, &c.; but if we think to plant our artillery at such an immense distance from the organs implicated by disease, the patient, abandoned to nature's resources alone, will inevitably sink under disease, and we shall be mortified by general disappointment. We should endeavour to act as Lord Nelson did: reserve our ammunition till we can touch the enemy, and never grant peace nor truce until he yields. In my routine I combat ardent fever with Pulv. Antim. and Hydrar. Submur. adding some

purgatives, generally Extract Colocynth. Composit. which constitute my chief febrifuge resources from year to year.

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## RHEUMATISMUS.

Mrs. M——, Friday-street, labouring under a variety of visitations since the year 1797 to the present period inclusive, has recently been attacked with sciatica and lumbago. The usual routine of purgatives, by liberal doses of Gum Guaiacum, the hot bath, diaphoretics (Pulv. Doveri and Calomel, Dr. Budd's favourite compound) were resorted to, but unavailingly. Acupunctura was suggested, but not put into practice. Months rolled on without much advantage being derived; and the feeble character of the pulse positively forbidding the use of the lancet at any period of the disease, I advised the trial of a tea-spoon-full of Salad Oil, mixed with Rum, or any other stimulating vehicle, to invite its retention on the stomach; having heard it asserted (but having no experience of it myself) that rheumatic rigidity has been occasionally overcome by such a simple process; implying, that its operation is somewhat analogous to that of oiling rusty implements, thereby furnishing more facility for action; and although I possess many doubts of its efficacy, there can be no injury sustained by its trial. I since find that she has derived much advantage.

## RHEUMATISM OF THE HEART.

This metastasis is cognisable on post mortem examination, developing inflammation upon or about that vital organ, perfectly sufficient to explain the cause of death. Rheumatism, long invading distant parts, will sometimes arrest some organ of first importance, relieving, it is true, the sufferer for a while; but such sudden removals of disease demand the most prompt attention, as they are too frequently premonitory indications of a deadly enemy in ambush. Our most correct anatomical investigations have hitherto been unable to trace the hidden progress of these occasional translations. They ought, however, to teach us the necessity of active and continued means to dislodge the latent and unwelcome guest prior to this fatal metastasis : whether *acupunctura* will accomplish this, time will reveal ; but it is high time we should depart, in this instance, from the stoical advice of Dr. Cullen, in the cure of *Rheumatismus*, viz. patience and flannel.

It is a refreshing fact, that few medical men witness many such cases in the whole routine of their practice ; and from the paucity of instances of recovery, it should seem as though it would remain incurable ; but, as “ hope gilds the tops of the mountains,” *nil desperandum*. As the pulse is so unprecedently bounding as to carry conviction of the character of the disease and Nature’s

claims, (seeing the enemy is even in the citadel, having scaled the walls,) I suggest that, as in ordinary carditis, so in this, the lancet is the only legitimate and hopeful remedy. I should employ it *ad deliquium*, guided by the consequent reduction of the pulse, not by the quantity of blood removed, nor the fears of surrounding parties. Perhaps I should suffer 100*ʒj* or more to escape at one operation.

A Northern luminary says, "If I get once hold of the arm, and have a fair entrance into the vessel, such a one should die rather of the doctor than the disease." Such a decision posterity might value. The individual practitioner must sometimes take the whole responsibility on himself.

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#### BANDAGING THE RIBS IN CHRONIC PLEURITIS.

A young Lady, just conducted through catamenial difficulties, became subject to pleuritic pains, for the relief of which no remedy but the lancet was found adequate. The space of time in which she enjoyed exemption from pain was short. A second time the lancet was thought necessary, and I fear it was also required a third time. I have a particular objection to draw off more of the vital fluid than is needful, particularly from a young and growing person; for in delicate subjects with narrow chests, the lancet, when not used with extreme circumspection, will as certainly, though not so



suddenly, destroy life as the sword itself. By way of substitute for bleeding, the ribs were, in this case, bound tight, as if for fracture. As soon as this was done, the pain, which was considerable at the time, instantly ceased, and has returned no more. I conceive the *modus operandi* to be by the bandage producing a natural diminution of the calibre of the enlarged and painful vessels by mechanical pressure; and I think I have occasionally witnessed the benefit of this plan in retiring Peritonitis.

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## DANGER ACCRUING FROM WEARING A RING.

Mr. M——, who, like many other travellers by our short stages, preferred an airy seat on the outside to an inside place, was one day descending from the roof of a stage coach, when a small piece of projecting iron, attached to the vehicle, insinuated itself under a broad gold ring, worn on the little finger, completely suspending him from the ground, so that, in order to be liberated, he was obliged to be supported. He paid me a visit with his mutilated finger; which, on examination, I found in so bad a state, that I was unwilling to take the responsibility upon my own shoulders, fearing untractable tetanus, and requested him to take the opinion of Sir A. Cooper, who returned my patient upon me with a complimentary note. The gentleman lost the use of the two first joints by sphacelus, and, thus injured, recovered.

## RUSPINI'S STYPTIC.

During my attendance at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, old Ruspini once paid us a visit for the purpose of testing his celebrated nostrum, and a very appropriate opportunity presented itself on the very day, by amputation below the knee, performed with the customary flap. He wished the tourniquet to be removed, but Messrs. Rigby and Alderson permitted it to be loosened only. Lint saturated with the styptic was freely applied to the divided parts, but no impression was made upon the hemorrhage ; as much time was allowed for the experiment as humanity judged expedient, leaving the spectators convinced of the inefficiency in that instance ; and although not fair, from that failure, to infer its inertness altogether, still there is little doubt but the old chevalier very much overrated its power. Its prodigious sale has, however, brought in a redundancy which has been dissipated, and foolishly evaporated “ like the morning dew,” leaving the successor, as Solomon says, “ nothing in his hand.”

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## SCHIRROUS RECTUM.

Mr. L——, of St. John-street, ætatis about 64, became afflicted with enlargement of the prostate, for which it is not probable we shall ever be in

possession of remedial measures upon which we can place much reliance. The disease extended to the rectum, and ultimately degenerated into a state of cancer. Under these painful circumstances, narcotics and confinement were the only sources of hope in affording relief, as any attempt at cure would have been presumptuous. Habitually a great reader, he now became much more so, the old divines being his chief companions. His piety was of no common order; and though a dissenter, he associated with his near neighbour and beloved friend, the Rev. Mr. Forster, with whom "he took sweet counsel." Entering his consecrated room on one occasion, I well remember his impressive words, "Brother Suttleffe, I would not thank an angel from heaven to tell me my name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. I should reply, I know it, by my unquestionable abhorrence of sin, by my confidence in my Saviour, and by my delight in fellowship with God." Towards the decline of the incurable malady, repose was of course secured chiefly by anodynes; but even that he sometimes lamented, as depriving him of the consolations of God, which were neither "few nor small." He was well aware of the approach of his final removal, and I had the charge of collecting all the branches of the relative circle, scattered about in various directions. Within six days of his dissolution, the party were assembled, and, surrounding the patriarch, he blessed them, taking

them all by the hand, and commending them to God. The scene will never be forgotten. I think I hear him now uttering, as deliberately as the venerable Archbishop of Canterbury pronounces the benediction, when dismissing the congregated assembly,

“The Lord bless thee and keep thee: the Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

NUMBERS vi.

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SCROFULA.

It has been asked, by a star of the first magnitude, Dr. Uwins, whether Scrofula is ever cured? From all that I have been able to collect from the combined testimonies of professors in the healing art, I should reply in the negative. If any salutary effect is calculated upon, I have placed my reliance not in medicine, but on diet of a suitably nutritious character, and that employed with steady perseverance, waiting for puberty. But we begin, in this improving age, (*nil desperandum*,) to cherish hope of a cure being effected under the use of Capsicum. It is grateful to our feelings and a stimulus to exertion for the welfare of our fellow creatures, (for who of all the sons of men make greater sacrifices in the sacred cause of humanity, than medical practitioners?) to be able to cherish hope, although it may finally lead to disappoint-



ment. Attempts of this kind will, on reflection, be pleasing and improving, and some valuable truth may be elicited, which shall warm the grateful heart of posterity, to praise the endeavour to the end of time.

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## A CASE OF CONTINUED SICKNESS.

Miss Christiana B——, ætatis 12, to whom I was summoned, had been seized with sickness. She was of a very delicate temperament; but I found the pulse more full than could have been anticipated, from her exterior aspect. The retchings occurred about five minutes apart, with distinct and regular intervals; but she did not appear to suffer from pain in any part. Being unable to assign any adequate cause, I paused for about a quarter of an hour, in the course of which time, a younger brother shut the door rather violently; when she immediately frowned. “That noise distresses you, my dear,” I said. “Yes, Sir.” I now felt myself in complete possession of the key to her disorder. The well known sympathy of the stomach with the head, (as in the incipient stages of hydrocephalus,) together with a surcharged pulse, rendered the case no longer ambiguous. “Mrs. B——,” said I to the mother, “your daughter must apply three leeches to each temple, be perfectly exempted from the annoyance both of

light and noise, and sip a small quantity of lemonade occasionally." On the morrow, the sickness abated on the instant the blood flowed, and ceased altogether long before the evacuation had terminated. The cause being removed, the effect ceased. Why not then, in such cases, use the lancet? Granted, that the result would be similar; but who could promise that no consumptive effect would follow that potent (and in many instances indispensable) remedy? and I have some reason to fear that I have occasionally witnessed such a result. *Experientia docet.*

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WHAT PROPORTION OF SLEEP IS COMPATIBLE WITH ALL  
THE ESSENTIAL PURPOSES OF LIFE?

During the pursuit of miscellaneous studies, I restricted myself, for some time, to five hours sleep; but I was compelled speedily to relinquish the experiment. Some possess resolution enough to persevere in the want of sleep until cerebral pains harass, or mental imbecility overtakes them. The scriptures, abounding in evidences of the king's high road to honest inquirers after heaven, have spread before us unnumbered suggestions of essential value for our comfortable passage through life. The extreme points (the wise will keep within compass) lie within the following words: "It is vain for you" (over industrious people) "to

sit up late, to rise up early, and eat the bread of sorrows." [PSALM.]—Such ultra solicitude for lucrative acquirements generally succeeds, where the markets are open to all, and unrestricted by monopolising cupidity; but the proprietors possess no enjoyment. All their satisfaction is absorbed and dissipated in the labour. Again, if the case be so, we may indulge a little; but beware of that sluggish suggestion, "Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt have plenty of bread." [PROVERBS.] Indolent characters never accumulate wealth. I have come in contact with many of this description, who unless they acquire good principles, are drones in the hive for the residue of their infelicitous days, and possibly become morbid excrescences, bidding defiance to the gentle warning of the clergy, and inviting the summary sword of the civil and necessary magistrate. The Rev. John Wesley, (whose reward in heaven I presume is far superior to that assigned to the Rev. John Toplady,) was accustomed to say, in relation to the quantum of sleep, and he must have been a good judge, "six hours for a man, seven for a woman, and eight for a fool." My chosen minister often smiles, and says we all require the fool's hours. A *rara avis* is sometimes met with, requiring no more than three. I had a relation of this description, who lived to a very advanced period, enjoying all her faculties perfectly. It is unquestionably a true proverb,

that one hour before twelve, is worth two afterwards. Napoleon, that "mighty man of mischief," (a compound of the monkey and tiger,) was another instance of a similar kind.

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CATS ANNOYING A SLEEPING CHILD.

For a considerable time I remained wholly sceptical as to the circumstance of a feline animal sucking the breath of a sleeping infant, until I had proof positive in the family of an endeared relative. The father thought he heard an unusual sound in the direction of the cradle, where a beloved daughter lay asleep. He advanced to the spot, and saw the domesticated cat with its mouth close upon the mouth of the sleeping innocent, with the paws upon each side of the neck. He, very wisely, instantly dispatched puss, and several days elapsed (about fourteen) before the infant was quite recovered. The influential effect was a perturbed respiration, and want of accustomed activity and cheerfulness.

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Mr. W——, in my vicinity, many years since, was smoothing the back of his cat, whilst sitting in his lap. The capricious creature, in an instant, and without the slightest provocation, bit him, and sprung out of his reach. The wound shortly in-



flamed, and ultimately caused his death. The report in the neighbourhood was, that the animal was rabid.—Lately, all the feline inmates at the Bank have been disposed of in a summary manner, some of them having shown a degree of capriciousness singular even in that animal.

A useful lesson is taught us, viz. what to avoid in the cast and character of the feline, and what to imitate in the canine—the selfishness of the former in adhering to the house and cupboard to the last extremity—and the noble generosity of the latter, in cleaving to his master with unwearied and uncomplaining perseverance, in the midst of every privation.

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#### WOUNDS ON THE SKIN

Inflicted by a sharp instrument heal with prodigious facility, provided the constitution be exempt from scrofulous taint—the inosculating vessels form a union (the blood being the best balsam,) at once so speedy and permanent, (if undisturbed by officious interference,) as to excite surprise to all parties. A teasing restlessness will nevertheless obtrude itself from the patient and friends to inspect the wound—they cannot conceive that all is going on well without the surgeon's inspection and healing ointment, although free from pain. In ordinary cases I usually postpone the dressing to the next day, and then drop on a little Alcohol, by

way of *placebo*—sometimes I see them no more, they go where less firmness and a more accommodating spirit are manifested. I incur occasional censure, but we must “take it patiently, if we do well, and suffer for it.” The uninstructed will scarcely believe what degree of improvement will be visible upon the removal of the first dressing; my venerable master early instilled into my mind the maxim, that the air is the great corrupter of wounds. People in general have no idea what a healing process is carrying on in large extensive wounds under a poultice unremoved for five or six days, and then the exclamation is, What a fine cure the surgeon has made! The customary sticking-plaster is spread with a gum too warm to suit an irritable skin, gold-beater’s skin is far preferable for slight wounds.

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BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF SNUFF UNDER AN EXPOSURE TO  
THE PESTIFEROUS FUMES OF FEVER.

Although I am no snuff-taker, in the general sense of the word; yet I make use of it on two occasions, (for nothing is created in vain,) viz. to prevent a dozing disposition at public worship, and to correct a repulsive exhalation from a diseased subject. About eight months ago, I was in daily attendance upon a case of *Scarlatina Anginosa* of an uncommonly malignant character. I, unfortu-

nately, left my snuff-box behind me, which I did not discover until at the bed-side of my patient. Whilst on my return, I perceived that I had inhaled at the nostrils a very penetrating odour, which I was utterly unable to dislodge by every effort in my power. At the Stone's end, Borough, I supplied myself with the desirable powder, so grateful at that time, and, by one pinch snuffed up the nostrils, I felt instantly relieved of all sense and idea of contagion. My patient recovered under the usual remedies of Pulv. Antimon. and Calomel, with cold diluents and constant ventilation. The fumes of steaming vinegar, in a saucer over a lamp burning night and day, were kept up, by way of security to the attentive inmates: a precaution which was completely successful.

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#### ON SODA IN CALCULUS.

A case exhibiting the solvent properties of the Sal Sodæ, recently occurred in the following calculous complaint: Mr. F. W——, a near relation of mine, at the West end of the Metropolis, had for a considerable time past laboured under renal and cystic complaints; and had resorted to a variety of means, without deriving any essential relief. During the last few months he took large quantities of Sal Sodæ; and, although much stony matter was evacuated, he became so impatient as to intreat Sir Astley Cooper

to perform the operation of lithotomy, which he did a few days afterwards, with his accustomed skill. I received the different portions of the calculi; and, such was the character of the offending matter, that a considerable part appeared to have been corroded by the solvent, so as to be broken down with great facility. Other portions of the calculous basis, lodged in cysts, were hard, but they could not have been reached by the solvent. Had an equal exposure, however, to its influence been attainable, I feel persuaded that the necessity for the operation would have been quite superseded.

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#### ON REPUTED SOLVENTS FOR CYSTIC CALCULI.

From the year 1786, to 1790 inclusive, I was present during probably one hundred different operations of lithotomy, principally boys, under the skilful and attentive superintendence of Messrs. Donne, Alderson, and Rigby, in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. The two latter gentlemen, graduated for M.D.; the first named was my quondam master, and the father of the amiable Mrs. Opie. I cannot recollect an instance of a fatal termination during the period of my constant attendance in this excellent institution. On passing to the Borough Hospitals, I was surprised and shocked by the frequent fatal termination of lithotomy in adults. Certainly it could not be from less



skill in the operation than I had been accustomed to witness ; I was, therefore, led to the conclusion that subsequent management, and chiefly the deficiency of ventilation and cleanliness, were amongst the principal causes of failure. In visiting the Norwich Hospital, Mr. Howard the Philanthropist was at a loss to suggest any improvements, and acknowledged to the officers of the establishment, that he never witnessed so much uniform cleanliness and attention to the comforts of the inmates.

I have been in search of a solvent for human calculi ever since the year 1793, when I was first introduced to the eccentric Dr. De Valangin, whose inquiries had for a long season been directed towards that humane object. I am satisfied of the decided impression made upon some of the phosphates by drinking diluted Natron, but the advantages are so small as to discourage my persevering in its use. I subjected a given portion of Phosphate of Lime to the test of expressed juice of onions, for several months, occasionally agitating the phial ; but upon its removal, after drying and weighing, it seemed not in the smallest degree to be diminished ; so that I infer, if onions (a favourite remedy with calculous subjects,) possess a power preventive of coneretions in the bladder, they possess none of a solvent character out of the body. I made trial also of a strong infusion of the Barbary Parsley, and the Barbary Breakstone, but those pompously-named vegetables appeared in my hands

to be perfectly inert, The Black Currant Tree ranks high in the opinion of some, but my observation throws this also into the shade.

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*Audi alteram partem.*

This established axiom with the wise and prudent has urged to a more correct examination of the reputed efficacy of herbaceous solvents. The Phosphate of Lime, after immersion for two weeks in the expressed juice of Black Currants, had not been dissolved in whole or in part, but its substance had suffered such an alteration as to be broken down by the finger and thumb easily to an impalpable powder. This circumstance instantly brought to my recollection the predilection for this fruit evinced by an endeared relative, (labouring under encysted calculus,) on whom Sir Astley Cooper with his accustomed talent and acumen performed lithotomy. The strong infusion of Barbary Parsley had not dissolved a given number of grains of the Phosphate of Lime, but had separated every particle of it, exhibiting to view the appearance of chalk and water; and the effect of the Barbary Breakstone most agréably surprised me: there was nothing tangible nor ocular, not a perceptible vestige of the enclosed Phosphate. Those who have leisure may repeat the experiments. The tests by analysis and synthesis are in reserve.

So that, as usual on most occasions, we may affirm, that *vox populi, vox veritatis*.

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## SPEAKING WHEN SWALLOWING.

The danger attendant upon speaking whilst in the act of swallowing was manifested in the instance of a poor man on London Bridge, who, masticating a piece of food, observed a person approaching him from whom he expected alms, and hastening to swallow, that he might not lose the favourable opportunity, attempted to speak when a piece of food, sufficiently large to occupy the cavity, entered the epiglottis. The lungs not being distended at the instant, he was suffocated, and died in a few minutes. A "resurrection man," or, in a less impious phrase, a "body-snatcher," passing at the instant, pressed through the sympathising crowd, exclaiming aloud, "What, my brother!" and immediately burst into tears, (a circumstance not very usual in the rougher sex.) Having persuaded the persons collected that he had some intimate knowledge of the deceased, they actually assisted him in procuring a coach for the removal of the dead man, which was speedily effected, and the body safely lodged in our dissecting-room.

Although there is something revolting to our feelings as men, in disturbing the bones of the dead, yet extensive anatomical knowledge is not

to be otherwise obtained, and the interests of the community demand proficiency in the healing art. For my part, I would render every facility to the acquisition of subjects, well contented to wait for the praises due to such commendable deeds till an enlightened posterity should award them: feeling that I was actuated by the noblest principles of honour and justice, I should turn a deaf ear to the execrations of the present generation. And, in another case, suppose "the powers that be" are in error, what is a Christian to do? Why, risk their anger, if reason and conscience tell him he is right.

"An earthquake may be bid to spare  
The man that's strangled by a hair.  
Fate steals along with silent tread—  
Found oft'nest in what least we dread;  
Frowns in a storm with angry brow,  
But in the sunshine strikes the blow."—COWPER.

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#### ON SPINAL CURVATURE.

It is now no secret by what means Dr. H—— obtains his laurels. The recumbent position alone is so favourable to the restoration of inflamed membranes, as to insure immense relief to the interested parties; but the singular view with which the Doctor is actuated towards the accomplishment of this object, is extraordinary. We all know he believes the vertebræ, in spinal curvatures, to have suffered a partial luxation, (an idea which all prac-



titioners, whose opinions I have taken, absolutely reject,) and it is a proof of the imperfection of human attainments, when we learn that the tender bodies of children, &c., are strapped violently down by strong pressure and adhesive plaster, which must produce an intensity of pain known only by the sufferers.

I write feelingly on this subject, having had two of my own children labouring under diseased spine, in which cases I followed the advice of Sir A. Cooper, and by means of rest and local irritants, obtained some relief. But by any analogy of reasoning, I am at a loss to account for the practice adopted by Mr. —, in the case of a cousin of mine, in Princes-street, Hanover-square, in applying caustics to the lumbar region, while the deformity is confined to the upper dorsal vertebræ!

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Deformity of the spine is of so frequent an occurrence in the female as to elude the most vigilant observation, and to demand the most prompt and persevering attention. At the conclusion of ardent fever, when we indulge the pleasing expectation that medical services will be no longer requisite, a latent decrepitude is developed, for which we can assign no probable cause. A local debility amongst the membranes or cartilages of the vertebræ degenerates into active inflammation, the weight of the head and shoulders resting, in the

perpendicular posture, upon those parts ; which, recently weakened, avoid the burden to which they are unequal, by a tendency to recline or to lean in an inelegant position, the erect one being peculiar to the human species.

When consulted on these occasions, I press upon the shoulders, expecting the young convalescents will intimate some uneasiness at the diseased parts. I examine the vertebral projection, and usually find pain and heat about the part affected ; in which case the disorder is palpable and curable. I enjoin rest, of course, with the view of affording invited relief to oppressed nature, and set up a cuticular action generally by Ung. Tartar. Antimon., which infallibly answers every purpose. The local affection is sure to be transferred to the skin, and restoration is complete. I am perfectly at a loss to explain the *modus operandi* of some who dedicate their time and talents wholly to this class of sufferers, and so often are defeated in their prognosis. I am in the habit of conversing with those monopolizers of information on the subject of diseased vertebræ, and can only express my unqualified surprise.

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## SPINAL INFLAMMATION.

Miss Sarah P——, of Brixton, was brought by her anxious parents for my inspection. The only complaint made by the parties was, an incapacity

for walking. The knees were accordingly examined, it being supposed that the seat of weakness was there; but instantly recognising the law of sympathy, I replied, that the disease was in the spine. "Does not walking fatigue you, my dear?" said I. "Yes, Sir." "Put your hand upon the loins, Mrs. P., and you will find that region too warm." "It is so, Sir; but we thought all the complaint arose from weak knees." From this time she was kept in a recumbent posture, leeches were applied to the spine, and subsequently vesications were persisted in, till she could jump and hop about the room. Three years have expired since this necessary process, and the young lady bids fair to rival, in elegance of form and activity, the most admired of her sex.

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## SPITTING OF BLOOD.

Mr. P——, jun., of St. Paul's, ætat. 22, the hope of his fond parents, was suddenly, and without any premonitory symptoms, seized with hæmoptysis. His being somewhat delicate, and not having a full pulse, I steadily refused the use of the lancet. I advised cupping, aperients, and what I have long been accustomed to place implicit confidence in, Red Wine Negus, Lemonade, and Infus. Rosarum. My attendance was required but once; the disease instantly subsiding, and has returned no more, though four or five years have elapsed.

It may not appear generous, but I cannot help contrasting this case with a very similar one, in the person of Mr. E——, the valuable attorney, who submitted to be repeatedly blooded by the order of Dr. M—— B——, whose prescriptions ultimately failed, although he continually affirmed that there was no ground for apprehension, and that the lungs were perfectly sound, not six weeks before his patient expired of Phthisis Pulmonalis.

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#### SPLINTERS OF WOOD FORCED UNDER THE NAILS

Require a tedious operation for their necessary removal. I have known many humane persons (under this consideration) refuse to have their floors scrubbed in the usual way, insisting upon the substitution of a brush called a plough, thereby precluding the possibility of such a painful occurrence as the forcing a splinter under the nail. The dread of applying to the surgeon in the vicinity impels some stults to remove the annoying splinter; by which attempt, if unsuccessful, they add to the difficulty: as it generally happens in old decayed boards, divided portions are sometimes removed separately. To obviate this, if possible, I pare the nail so thin as to admit the points of a pair of forceps to grasp sufficiently firm to effect the purpose without a second attempt.



## STERNUM INJURED.

Miss A. B——, of Watling-street, was unexpectedly caught in a crowd in our busy city, and, not attending to the custom of keeping close to the sides of the houses, provided they are on the right hand, was violently pressed against a post; and finding that something had given way, she screamed out. After enduring constant pain and shortness of breath for two days, she called upon me. There was evidently a partial separation of the sternum from the cartilage uniting it to the ribs. As the pulse would not admit of a lancet, a roller was all that was necessary to be immediately applied; and after the binding of the whole chest had been performed, she exclaimed, "I am now free from pain." "Yes, Nancy," said her sister, who was present, "you will be able to sing once more." I said, "I know the young lady is expert both in vocal and instrumental music." It is about three years since the occurrence, and no vestige of a painful nature remains.

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FATAL EFFECTS OF CARELESSNESS IN LEAVING THINGS  
ON THE STAIRS.

Mr. ——, ætatis 55, a bon vivant residing north of my abode, in coming down stairs at a

time when one of the female domestics had forgotten to remove a short brush, placed his foot directly upon the handle, which rolling, carried him off his balance, and he fell with great violence, fracturing a bone. The inflammation became perfectly unmanageable; the best advice was sought in vain; and sphacelus and premature death ensued. Had the subject been as remarkable for temperance as for intemperance, it is more than probable such a fatal issue would not have attended the case. The dangerous practice, however, which is an unequivocal proof of idleness and carelessness, cannot be too much deprecated.

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## STIFF JOINTS

Are alike perplexing to the patient and practitioner. The division of the muscular fibre but partially relieves, seldom gratifying the parties by unexpected and complete liberation; the division of the tendinous theca is worse, being frequently followed by tetanus, and, for the most part, terminating in death,—the result of an injudicious and unauthorised interference. John Hunter, “whose gigantic genius,” as Mr. Cline says, “has done more for the good of mankind than was effected in the preceding two thousand years,” has, by his method of exercising manual motion, put us in possession of a fact, of which we were not formerly aware. Edward Digby, a student at the Norwich Hospital,

had made considerable progress in this interesting and untrodden path, by means of bandages, splints of various size and position, oleaginous frictions, and continual exercise. His ardour, I fear, carried him to excess, for on coming up to Town he incautiously exposed himself to cold, which taking firm hold of his constitution, degenerated into phthisis, and in this state I saw him, in a hopeless condition as to restoration, about twenty years since. I should have been most happy to have been convinced that the "death of legal hope," so uncertain and so delusive, had been superseded by the "life of evangelic hope," so certain and so cheering; but it appeared that the rock on which he split, was the identical one on which Lord Nelson foundered and sunk.

If there be any truth in the assertion, that Oil, by its internal administration as well as by its external application, will occasionally find its way to old rheumatic affections, supplying them with liberty and ease, why may not the accommodating absorbents, upon the same principle, grant relief under sinuous deficiency?

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THE STOMACH.

This organ, it is presumed, is compactly inclosed, in a state of digestible perfection; distending proportionably to its contents; the presence and agency of the gastric juices inducing appetite.

At the conclusion of our lectures, I was generally in the habit of eliciting from the courteous lecturer additional information, by private, and some thought impertinent questions. On one such occasion, I interrogated Mr. Cline on the subject of the loss of appetite under unusual fasting. The answer was, that he thought the want of relish for food after a given space of time had elapsed arose from the gastric juice having escaped the stomach, and passed off into the duodenum, judging that a new secretory action would be indispensably necessary to be set up by the stomach prior to a return of healthy appetite. Whether this accommodating agent be promoted or impeded by diffusion is a subject to be determined by Mr. A——, and the discerning community. I rather incline to the former opinion, and am strengthened in the supposition by the health, cheerfulness, and longevity of those who apportion a due quantity of fluid with the solid sustenance received. An evil is, however, to be deprecated, in repeating the rapid return of meals, without mercy to the poor labouring stomach. As Dr. Saunders used to observe, our patients who gorge at supper, impose upon the stomach drudgery throughout the night. The Romans had their prandium and cœnam only; Elijah had his supplies, by God's appointment, evening and morning. Human gastric juice will dissolve only under minute division of animal sustenance. The trituration of the gizzard peculiar to



fowls is unknown to us, which appears to be a simple solution, evidently best promoted, and unattended with flatulency, by much subdivision, or mastication.

Concentrated Sulphuric Acid has been, on three occasions, accidentally swallowed to my knowledge, and only in one instance did the party escape destruction. He was only able to receive cold water, and the poison was rejected several days after. It was presumed it had formed itself with the gelatinous fluids of the stomach into a cyst, preventing its cauterising and destructive effects.

A nurse called at a chemist's shop for some Antimony to administer to an infant; the stult furnished her with ʒji. Butter of Antimony, which being given to the puny patient, destroyed it in ten minutes: the post mortem appearances exhibited complete destruction of the stomach and bowels.

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#### SULPHUR PRÆCIPITATUM IN ERUPTIVE COMPLAINTS.

This subject had not sufficiently engrossed my attention till very recently, owing, probably, to the high opinion I entertained of Dr. Willan, and, since his day, of the late Dr. Bateman, to whose scientific knowledge (enjoying, as I did, some degree of intimacy with them) I had long been accustomed to transfer my eruptive patients, unwilling to take the responsibility upon myself, particularly as a great

degree of uncertainty is attached to the efficacy of our remedial resources, when a reliance is principally restricted to Hydrarg. cum Cretâ, &c. Since the death of Dr. Bateman, I have, in a manner, begun to prescribe for the cure of eruptions, and I have seen obstinate cases yield so promptly and permanently to the use of the Sulphur Præcipitatum, as to leave no doubt on my mind that relief could not be attributable solely to chance, or nature's vast and varied resources, but in a great degree to the effect of the medicine.

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## SWEATY FEET.

If the poor enjoy immunity from bodily paroxysms of gout, and from mental solicitude relative to the price of stocks and captious distinctions, determinable only by the congregated sophs in legal robes, they are not exempt from sweaty feet, probably the result of dirt and neglect. I well remember an instance where a consultation was required, and unexpectedly an inspection of the feet and legs was deemed necessary, in the case of a wealthy gentleman. Upon exposing them to view, the medical attendants called out, "Take off his black stockings," not aware that soap and water could best have accomplished the service.

My venerable master, for the last 50 years of his life, on rising from bed every morning, through all

seasons, plunged his feet in cold water. I am not aware that it was any thing more than the result of a love of cleanliness—a love which I could wish the busy inmates of the Metropolis freely to entertain. Of late I have indulged an opinion, which may not, however, be founded on fact, that a tendency to sudorific secretions might be materially, if not effectually checked. Wherever I am consulted on such occasions, I only prescribe a semicupium every night, on the principle of suffering the superabundant exudation to escape into the hot water. It is a visitation, however, which is involved in mystery, and renders the parties subject to it moving nuisances.

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## SYPHILITIC ERUPTIONS.

A case of syphilitic eruption came under my care some years ago in the person of a young and blooming bride, a few weeks after marriage. Not having the slightest idea of the nature of the complaint, I merely prescribed ordinary aperients, which of course afforded no relief. The eruption, which was above the upper lip, spread and assumed a character that excited my suspicions; and taking the husband aside, I learned from him that there was too much reason to suspect the existence of syphilis. Promptly acting upon the information I had extorted from him, I prescribed

for her the Blue Pill and Calomel, which made an obvious impression even before ptyalism arose. A gentle mercurial action was kept up for six weeks, during which period I had to contend with nocturnal pains in the tibiæ; but I was ultimately successful in eradicating every vestige of the disease. She has since borne very healthy children, and never had the least idea of the cause of her disorder, or the nature of the plan adopted for her relief. Perhaps had I been more discerning at first, she might have escaped the nodes; and I have since been often surprised that she continued so patiently under my care; her predilections, however, were strong in my favour, from my having been accustomed to attend the parents of both herself and her husband.

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## FATAL TAPPING.

Surgeon —— many years since had occasion to tap a dropsical subject. A similar operation had been before performed, leaving an indelible cicatrix; and, wishing to avoid the particular spot marked by the previous operation, he chose the vicinity, where tapping was performed sidewise. The swollen abdomen had so displaced the original site of the epigastric artery, that it was calculated no evil would result from the operation; the entrance, however, of the trocar, divided the artery,



hemorrhage followed, and death was the result. Tapping has also very recently terminated fatally, when no mischief was anticipated.

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## TETANUS.

It is surprising that a bullet will penetrate quite through the chest, and make its exit under the shoulder blade, without material injury to the party; nay, to the permanent restoration of an asthmatic subject, (a good hint for the medical officers in the military department;) yet a thorn or pin's point entering the tendinous theca, will often expose the sufferer to a disqualifying rigidity in the injured parts, and occasionally, if neglected, to the awful and unmanageable disease tetanus.

Mr. C——, a promising youth, who had nearly terminated his apprenticeship at an established ironmonger's, north of Cheapside, was assisting in unloading some heavy goods contained in a barrel, when the ponderous mass coming in contact with the stones before he could disengage his hand, his fingers received considerable injury. They were accordingly bound up, and he thoughtlessly continued his occupation. Pain, inflammation, fever, red lines traceable along the absorbents to the axilla, supervened, and subsequently tetanus, under which he died.

Mrs. M—— was seated in one of our short stages travelling north, when, by some accident the coach was overturned. In her alarm, she thrust her hand out of the window, which was open, when the vehicle came down with such violence as to crush the fingers. The same symptoms followed in this case also, and death closed the scene under similar circumstances.

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Mr. ——, a butcher of Whitechapel, while sitting at table with his family, was so much irritated by an undutiful son, as to strike at him; the palm of his hand, unfortunately, came in contact with the steel hanging before him, by which it was pierced. No greater evil was apprehended, than a temporary disqualification; but the wounded tendons became inflamed, locked jaw quickly supervened, and death closed the scene.

Having once succeeded in a tetanic case where every menaeing symptom was clearly developed, by Tinet. Opii in considerable doses, rapidly followed up, under the direction of my old master, Dr. William Saunders, of Russel-square, I have the most confident opinion that no case should be abandoned to despair. If we cannot introduce ʒss. into the stomach, we can into the rectum ʒji., multiplying by four, as is usual when the same remedy is admissible into the human frame.

## CASE OF TETANUS CURED BY OPIUM.

[From the *London Medical and Physical Journal*, 1819.]

Much has of late been said and written concerning the spinal marrow being implicated in tetanic affections, and very probably with perfect truth, especially when opisthotonus has closed the scene. I well remember a case in Guy's Hospital, under the care of Dr. William Saunders, in 1790 or 91, where this terrific stage of tetanus preceded death, and Dr. S. remarked, that, at any future period, under similar circumstances, he should prescribe a bath of the solution of opium; a decision which has never been obliterated from my mind. Not long since, Mrs. J——, of Bartholomew-close, was attacked with spasmodic convulsions about the præcordia, so as to threaten suffocation. These had been ushered in by a severe rigor. After a little inquiry, the symptoms appeared to have their origin from an injured toe, whence the lymphatics were inflamed to the inguen. Feeling persuaded that the cause was fully ascertained, I commenced with two drachms of Tincture of Opium, as soon as an interval would admit, and ordered it to be repeated at the expiration of fifteen or twenty minutes. The beneficial effects, however, were soon so obviously decided, that a few hours were allowed to elapse before it was repeated, which was then necessary, from a return of the paroxysms.

They were, however, much less violent. I considered the danger not over until the fifth day, at which period the Tincture of Opium was wholly discontinued. About three ounces were administered in the course of the treatment.

I presume that Dr. Farre will recognise the case to which I have, in a prefatory way, referred. To his friendly assiduity and medical skill, recently experienced in my own person, I am happy to bear a most grateful testimony.

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#### INFLAMMATION OF THE TENDON AND THECA

Is a teasing annoyance to all parties; and whether it results from wounds or arise spontaneously, the disease is equally troublesome and unmanageable. It would seem that the diseased parts are not restorable, as nature sets up a new action, neglecting or disregarding the injured member. I am aware that it is the practice of some to whom I am in the habit of bowing obsequiously, to employ the bistoury pretty freely, and it certainly carries along with it the air and plausibility of surgical efficiency, adding present laurels to the operator; but if the cut patient carry with him a rigid finger or thumb, we shall occasionally have the pain to witness it rendered perfectly useless, being permanently grasped in the palm of the hand; sometimes also tetanus follows the use of the knife. I shall



continue to prefer assisting nature's restorative efforts, by fomentations, poultices, rest, and patience ; having never seen rigidity supervene under such treatment. During one winter I had thirteen such cases to superintend, among our German sugar bakers and boilers in Thames-street, and had the satisfaction of seeing them all return to their laborious occupation with unmutilated members.

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## TENDINOUS ABSCESSSES IN THE EXTREMITIES,

Whether of spontaneous or accidental origin, I suffer to break into a common poultice, according to the directions of my venerable master, whose words were, "Abscesses, so expelling their contents, leave a *spongy mouth*, for the purpose of excluding the air ;" a circumstance the advantages of which are necessarily superseded by the surgeon's instruments, the lancet or the bistoury. I have just taken leave of a case proving the truth of the above observation in a remarkable and uncommon manner. It does not convey an air of scientific value and importance to allow ourselves to be dictated to by nature ; but of what moment is this consideration, when compared with that of the speedy recovery of a useful member of society ? The facility by which the healing process was accomplished was truly surprising—poultice and rest being necessary only five days.

## A THORACIC AFFECTION.

Mrs. S——, ætatis 27, of Queenhithe, having been exposed to steam and cold, was seized with dyspnœa, and an incapacity to inflate the lungs. Dr. Saunders's distinction was proposed, whether she could not or dared not. It was replied, that she could not. The pulse was not sufficiently violent to admit the lancet. Something was necessary to be done to assist oppressed nature, or it was suggested that thoracic paroxysms would attend her the residue of her days. Leeches were, therefore, applied to the part affected, with Squills and Ipecacuanha internally. On calling the day following, I was gratified to find that the difficulty of breathing had subsided instantly upon the flow of blood from the leeches, and the medicine had acted suitably. The symptoms which distressed her appearing to have ceased, I took my leave, after urging caution as to the use of ordinary food, and strict attention to the bowels.

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## SMOKING TOBACCO.

This practice is frequently attended with advantages; and in the midst of pestilential effluvia emanating from typhus (the non-contagionists now are well worthy of imprisonment,) it often preserves

the attendants in health. Snuff under similar circumstances may also be used with success; nay, under ordinary catarrh, we are not susceptible of infection under its use. The eastern antichrist appears to have escaped annihilation owing to the national attachment to constant intercourse with the Egyptian soil, which continually exposes them to infection. The disadvantages of habitual smoking are not few. At the close of the day's labour, when Providence seems to have favoured the father of a family with a ready facility to indulge in the luxury of "searching the scriptures," and inviting the domestic circle around the family altar, the pipe is admitted as an imposing substitute, and thus are defeated the salutary purposes intended by infinite compassion to promote the best interests of all parties.

Narcotics of every description, when admitted as a luxury, have an injurious tendency. It is much to be deplored that more self-denial is not exercised amongst our dissenting students in divinity; that they should not learn to reject the introduction of the pipe. Were I a large subscriber to those highly valuable colleges, I should feel it an imperative duty to make my protest against such an evil by withdrawing my personal sanction: "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world," says Christ, our great master.

## TIC DOLOUREUX.

This is a disease of a most insidious character. About twelve years ago, Mr. S—— required my opinion upon a facial malady. After a little examination, I stated my belief that it was tic doloureux. He swore, and said he was afraid it was, for a few years prior he had laboured under the same symptoms, and then sent for Mr. George Young, who of course immediately recognised the disease, and said there were but two modes of cure, viz. the division of the diseased nerves in the face, or salivation. He preferred the latter, inasmuch as, to use the patient's phrase, Lord Carlisle's face was "all cut to pieces;" and under this treatment, in the course of a fortnight, he was well. Having been among the earlier pupils of Dr. Haighton in 1792, I felt no insuperable predilection for the division of the nerves of the pes anserinus, and sent Pulv. Doveri  $\mathfrak{Oj}$ . Upon calling in the morning, my patient declared himself recovered. He begged, however, that I would send him a few more powders, for he meant to travel in the Mail that evening, (*mirabile dictu*) to Dover: in short, he was cured.

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Mr. L——'s female Servant called upon me; she had submitted to the extraction of a tooth whilst



affected with tic doloureux, prior to her visit to me, vainly thinking she should thereby obtain relief. I administered Opiate Pills, by which she was shortly cured.

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Miss K——, from Ware, laboured under most terrific paroxysms of tic doloureux. She also had been influenced by the persuasive arguments of a dentist to part with a sound tooth, but without relief. Opium arrested the violence of the paroxysms, which were completely subdued by the auxiliary of the Extract Belladonna.

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#### ON THE TINEA CAPITIS.

A few years ago, I published in the London Medical Repository a fatal case of Tinea, under the external use of the Oxymuriate of Mercury. Since this period, I have been in the constant habit of using a saturated aqueous solution of the Cupri Sulphas, and if necessary, I apply it in the form of an ointment of any degree of strength. With these applications, I have hitherto found every porriginous eruption yield after a trial of a few weeks.

## DR. B——'S OPINION CONCERNING TYPHUS.

A few years ago, I had an opportunity of spending two hours with this distinguished character in his carriage. He, well recollecting the number of teasing questions I was accustomed to put to him subsequently to the lectures in the years 1790, 91 and 92, asked whether I liked the science of physic as well as at that period? I preferred it, I said, above all things. He observed, in continuation, that if government would present him with 5000*l.* per annum, under the prohibition of not writing another prescription, he would not accept it. I was unwilling that so favourable an opportunity should not be duly improved, and asked whether in typhus fever there is not some inflammation in the vessels of the brain? He replied by asking what I meant by typhus? For this term, he said, had, in his humble opinion, cost as many lives as the Peninsular war, in which the illustrious Duke of Wellington had gained unparalleled honours. "If, by typhus, you mean a state in which a person goes about neither ill nor well, thinking himself not sufficiently disordered to seek medical aid, and you bleed that subject in anticipation of inflamed vessels, you will have occasion, sooner or later, to repent of such practice." He added, "in all post mortem examination, I do not doubt but some organ or its membranes will be found gorged

with blood; but what organ may be so affected is quite uncertain, for, not unfrequently, no vestige of disease is traceable. The late Mr. H——, and the present Dr. L——r observed, that from the beneficial effects of emetics, it should seem that the stomach is chiefly implicated in fever.”

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CASE OF TYPHUS FEVER WITH A SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED  
TERMINATION.

Mr. M——, of Tower-street, who possessed a strong muscular frame and unusually vigorous constitution, being many years ago seized with fever, applied to Mr. S——, his neighbour, a most respectable practitioner, who prudently called in the valuable aid of Dr. B——. The result of the consultation was, the abstraction of twelve ounces of blood from the arm, which exhibited both cup and buff of uncommon thickness. The symptoms continuing, and the carbonated character of the blood justifying the operation, a second evacuation was made, when at the expiration of a few hours, to the surprise and consternation of all interested, he expired.

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Mrs. G——, of Queenhithe, ætatis 47, had felt herself somewhat indisposed for two or three weeks previous to resorting to medical advice, the symptoms being precisely those which my excellent

master, Dr. B., described as those of incipient Typhus. She was annoyed with frequent chills, feverish incapacity, and restlessness. Upon visiting her, I found the pulse 124, tremulous motions approaching towards subsultus, and facies Hippocratica. Bleeding by the lancet, (that minute instrument of mighty mischief, as Dr. — says,) I thought, in this case, would be attended with bad effects; and the exemption from pain in the head did not seem to require even the use of leeches. The redundant hair being removed from the head, which was moistened with cooling evaporating spirits, I contented myself with prescribing Pulv. Antimon.  $\mathfrak{z}$ j and Hydrarg. Submuriat.  $\mathfrak{z}$ ss, together with Saline draughts. Diluents were given largely, such as Lemonade, &c. Under these measures, the bowels were unloaded of a prodigious quantity of highly carbonated and offensive matter; and by the third day, relief was so complete that I was enabled to remit my constant attendance, and pursue a professional journey, only pressing the use of Castor Oil daily, during my absence.

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I was called in to Mrs. —, ætatis 25, of Lambeth Hill, many years ago, as a coadjutor, when the reputed talents of the day were Brunonians. This woman was liberally supplied with Cinchona and Opium, under a view of raising a superior excitement, the expectation of which, however, was



vain. During the latter period of her existence, I was witness to such a scene of seraphic rapture, (for she was a very pious character,) as I scarcely expect ever to see again. At the intervals of consciousness, under the suspension of the anodyne, she exhibited a sacred joy in the approach of death, to which no language can fully do justice. The impression was diffused over all the neighbourhood. I well remember it was in an ecstasy of this kind, one Sunday morning, when a frolicsome party peeped into the consecrated apartment, and one exclaimed, "I'm sure that woman is going to heaven;" and, I should presume, spoiled in consequence the proposed pleasures of the day. In the afternoon I called in again, and after pausing upon the power and soul-satisfying nature of the gospel of Christ, she suddenly broke out, with outstretched arms, "See, see!" The window opened towards the north. I shall never be persuaded but that she then actually beheld those angelic beings "who minister to the heirs of salvation." Her glistening eyes pourtrayed a joy that I wish always to retain upon a grateful memory. The relations and attendants in the room simultaneously called out, "How beautiful! how wonderful! how glorious!" In the evening she died.

"On thee foul spirits have no power;  
And, in thy last departing hour,  
Angels, that trace the airy road,  
Shall bear thee homeward to thy God."—WATTS.

I have known, during the departing moments of a Christian patriarch, melody (not human) audibly attested by all attendants in the consecrated apartment.

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Mr. R——, Jun., ætatis 21, at the west end of the Town, the favourite confidant of a large and harmonious circle, became restless, dispirited, languid, and in short, incapable of action for ten days or more, after which he was afflicted with acute pain in the head, and the pulse became accelerated. The amiable patient felt confident that the application of leeches to the temples would afford him relief. Prior, however, to resorting to this process, it was judged advisable to call in Dr. ——, who, being a Brunonian, refused to consent to their application, satisfying himself with the use of simples. The symptoms degenerated into a putrescency, with sordes, subsultus tendinum, and dissolution. It is much to be deplored that more active means were not resorted to in behalf of this excellent character, whose premature removal has left a mournful chasm in his domestic circle, which time and patience can alone close.

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Mrs. L——'s daughter, ætatis 12, of Holborn Bridge, required medical assistance. The usual symptoms, with celerity of pulse, were ushered in by febrile heat, restlessness, head-ache, thirst, &c.,

advancing by slow degrees to sordes on the gums and teeth, muttering delirium, &c. The incipient stage was opposed by the usual antiphlogistics; the latter by Wine and Cinchona. Having anxiously watched, according to the significant phraseology of that brilliant luminary, Dr. Uwins, of Bedford-row, "when to pull down, and when to build up," (to ascertain the precise moment of which requires the most discerning acumen,) after the alternations of hope and fear had repeatedly varied our prognosis for some time, nature's exhausted resources rallied, and the patient beoming permanently convalescent, we had the pleasure of congratulating the anxious widow on the restoration of her only and beloved daughter to health. During the febrile paroxysms, it appeared that "a grand work" had been wrought upon her mind, by a pious recognition of the hand of God in her restoration, (putting human instrumentality properly into the shade of obscurity.) I shall never forget the serenity expressed by my little patient, nor the joyous tears of the serious mother.

"Why should the wonders God has wrought  
Be lost in silence, and forgot?

"He saw the Gentiles dead in sin,  
And felt his pity work within.

"How would the powers of darkness boast,  
If but one praying soul were lost!"—WATTS.

## TYPHUS GRAVIOR.

Mr. P——, of Cheapside, ætatis 48, contracted fever during a benevolent visit to a dying pauper covered with filth and vermin and under an attack of fever. Who can assign limits to the actions of an enlarged mind, long accustomed to “go about doing good!” It is to be exceedingly regretted that more caution had not been employed by the benevolent party, and that vinegar had not been liberally scattered to neutralise the ammoniacal gas emanating from the diseased subject. About twelve years before, he had lost a prodigious quantity of blood under the peremptory orders of Dr. Marshall, for the relief of some hemiplegic symptom. I was concerned to learn that so much had been taken; the symptoms were relieved undoubtedly, but the recovered party never fully attained his pristine vigor. The lungs were thenceforth delicate, and subject to catarrh and dyspnœa, rendering him, I presume, more susceptible of contagion. At the commencement, cupping, purgatives, antimonials, saline draughts, &c., were prescribed. The blood assumed no appearance to warrant the repetition of cupping, neither did the pulse appear to require it, no impression being made upon the symptoms. Feeling the charge a most serious one upon my individual responsibility, I requested the aid of Dr. Uwins, who devoted a large portion of his



valuable time towards the object of obtaining relief for the patient. We had to combat with subsultus tendinum, unconscious evacuations, incapacity to protrude the tongue, a confused stare, quick pulse and heat, constantly lying on the back, sordes on the teeth, and dry tongue, with occasional incoherency. What was to be done? The patient would take nothing but water and tea, refusing every thing else. To draw off more blood under such circumstances would have been necessarily destructive : to force stimulants impracticable. We waited for nature's salutary guidance. The mineral and vegetable acids, and occasionally an anodyne, constant ventilation by night and day, were tried. Fæculent matter having been well disengaged at the commencement of the fever, the bowels were soft, though torpid. By the fifteenth day he asked for porter, wine, and brandy, in succession, which, of course, we gladly allowed him. The unconscious evacuations and subsultus gradually subsided, by the following day ratiocination had dawned, and he became rapidly convalescent.

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Miss B——, of Lombard-street, ætatis 19, (with whose father I had been associated as a pupil under Dr. Samuel Parr,) was seized with symptoms of fever; pulse 120; head-ache; and extreme prostration of strength. The fœtid fumes which emanated from the patient were counter-

acted by the steam of vinegar. The sordes and evacuations were highly offensive. Subsultus and delirium supervened; remedial resources were inefficient; and there was no prospect but dissolution, for which the party was well prepared. During the intervals we had full proof of her inward joys; nay, during the delirium, it was obvious on what subject and object her heart was set. We now attempted to raise ptyalism, which was quickly accomplished. Upon the recognition of the action of the life-saving metal on the constitution, all alarming symptoms suddenly yielded, and she speedily recovered.

The pestiferous fumes, in this case, possessed such pungency, as to be recognised instantly on entering the habitation; but during the whole process of the evaporation of the Acetic Acid kept boiling in the room, these were so far neutralised, that the attendants escaped; though some exposed themselves rather imprudently. The paramount attraction was the fervid piety of the young saint.

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Typhus gravior, of the most menacing character occurred in the person of Miss H——, of Nicholas Lane, ætatis 21. The symptoms gradually assumed a malignant form, heightened with a pestiferous fume, cognisable pungently on entering the residence. Remedies appeared to be perfectly inert, and the excitement of ptyalism afforded the

only chance of success, which being accomplished, hope began instantly to dawn, and a cure was ultimately effected. Immunity from infection was completely afforded to the attendants by keeping up the gaseous steam of vinegar over a lamp, perpetually burning in the patient's apartment; not an individual having contracted the slightest degree of the infectious fever. The piety of the interesting patient invited the curiosity of many who had temerity enough to witness the peace and composure with which she hailed the messenger of death, exclaiming—

“Jesus can make a dying bed.  
 Feel soft as downy pillows are,  
 On thy kind arms I lean my head,  
 And gently breathe my life out there.”

She recovered from the fever, but, as is frequently the case, becoming the subject of phthisis, in sixteen months after she breathed her last.

Dr. —, a Socinian, paid her a visit during the height of the symptoms, entering the consecrated room while she was whispering, “To him that is athirst will I give,” &c., the Doctor, catching at the word athirst, asked, “are you thirsty, Miss H——?” “Yes,” (she replied with a joyful “peace which passeth all understanding,”) “the blood of Christ will quench it too.” The Doctor asked no more questions, and I fear is capable of repeating this event as a proof and specimen of methodistical mania, in

the circle of learned Socinians over which he presides; for I have mostly observed that those unbelievers in revelation are alike destitute of candour as of piety, though privileged with an abode within "the full-orbed blaze of gospel light."

This highly favoured subject, however, became, after such a severe attack (as is often the case), so debilitated, that her weakness, attended as it was with evening rigors, morning perspirations, quickened pulse, and emaciation of muscle, with a teasing cough, rendered it absolutely necessary she should quit her favourite Town residence; and change of air and scenery shortly produced convalescence; a gradual removal of all alarming symptoms quickly supervening. But, returning to the Socinian circle (in the belly of which the murderous villain ——— was educated,) her piety was so violently and perseveringly opposed, that the phthisical character of the constitutional affection was again developed, from which she never recovered; and I believe her death is attributable more to a martyrdom in the cause of her religion than to the ordinary effects of her malady.

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INHALING TYPHOID PUTRESCENCY.

Dr. M——, brother to Mr. Charles M——, the solicitor, of loyal notoriety, a fellow student of mine under the classical auspices of Dr. Parr, after



graduating, associated himself with that cometic luminary Dr. Bateman, by whom the members of the medical society were informed of the incautious approach of the young diplomatic to a case of typhus fever. While reaching over his hand to feel the pulse of the diseased party, who was lying in an awkward posture, he unfortunately inhaled his breath. Disease was immediately transmitted, which, resisting all our remedial resources, speedily terminated in death. Thus fell a victim to his incaution, a young man who, had his life been spared, would have been an ornament to his profession. Under similar circumstances of contact with fever, I sometimes contract a temporary head-ache, the ill effects of which, however, are always prevented by charging the nostrils with snuff. On this subject, I was conversing with a great character in the city, Mr. T——, whose calling led him occasionally into pestiferous scenes, and among diseases of no ordinary nature. I told him that I felt surprised at his immunity. O! he replied, I labour under no fear, and always pause before inhaling my own breath, not respiring until I consider myself out of the reach of infection.

Mr. Friend, of Newbury, of pious memory, contracted cynanche, during the inspection of the fauces of a patient, and felt so convinced of the fact, that, upon returning home, he observed to his wife, "My dear, if ever man caught disease, I have at this time." Fever was

shortly perceptible, accompanied by sore throat, which terminated fatally. How, then, say some, that the medical practitioner is less exposed to danger than any man?

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## INCONTINENCE OF URINE.

This is a most untractable malady. The deficiency of muscular energy in the sphincter (I presume it is seldom referable to a redundant vigor in the muscles of the vesica) is almost out of the reach of the healing art. The few cases on which impression is really made derive their effect from the Lyttæ. Many years ago I was sent for to a son of Mr. J——, Fenchurch-street, labouring under this disorder. The mother, a sensible woman on most subjects, gravely attributed the cause to the carelessness of the accoucheur on securing the navel-string, which was separated too closely to the child, when a new-born infant. Argument was useless and unavailing, therefore I did not attempt to combat the error, except by a smile. We disagreed upon a graver matter, and I was compelled finally to withdraw.

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Mr. L——, of the Strand, brought his son, ætatis 18, who had suffered by this calamity from his birth. The havoc he had made amongst bedding, mattresses and blankets, was beyond

description. I commenced with restricting him to a paucity of fluids towards the latter part of the day, and prescribed the internal use of Tinct. Lyttæ gr.x. omninocte, adding two on each succeeding night, determining to persevere until some impression, either beneficial or injurious, was made. I preferred its use internally in this instance, judging that its application on the perinæum, in the form of a blister, would rather tease than relieve. This case was cured by the use of the drops alone, and the patient has not hitherto relapsed.

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In cases of retention of urine, there are some where the successful introduction of the catheter is impracticable, owing to a diseased secretion of a ropy viscid character. It is a pleasing and relieving circumstance to be informed, from the highest authority, that the external application of Turpentine Liniment will be found an excellent substitute. I have seen Mr. Cline compelled to penetrate the trocar by the perinæum, as for lithotomy, which is at times attended with the same risk as in that tremendous operation.

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## BLOODY URINE

Was evacuated from the person of Miss W—, ætatis 13, under the following circumstances:—

anomalous eruptions of a very peculiar character had long teased the party, for the cure of which a variety of means were had recourse to ; the recovery was, however, so slow, that it remains with me (though not with the parents) a matter of doubt, whether the healing art had any share in effecting an improvement. The renal organs became suddenly torpid, and œdema was the consequence, diffusing itself through her whole frame. I advised the external application of Terebinthine until the urine smelt of turpentine, subjoining the internal use of Potassæ Acetas, that being my favourite remedy ever since the year 1788, under similar circumstances. The kidneys resumed their accustomed vigour of action, the œdema proportionally vanished, the pulse improved in energy, but the urine was so overloaded with red globules, as to assume the appearance of blood. Had the subject been of the masculine gender, I should instantly have desisted, well knowing that one red globule will form a nucleus of a calculus, for the removal and disposal of which nature has not been so accommodating as in the female sex ; hence I unhesitatingly urged the continuance of the remedial plan with confidence of complete and final success, and in which I have not been disappointed.



## VARIOLOUS DISEASE.

A very recent occurrence of Small Pox has taken place in the family of Mr. L——, where the variola was introduced by inoculation, during the infantile period, leaving a small sprinkle of indelible evidences. The test of vaccination, having been esteemed nugatory, was not resorted to ; but after the lapse of several years, the variolous poison attacked the subject *vi et armis*, being transmitted through the medium of the lungs, although, when an infant, it had been conveyed by the gentler and safer medium of the circulation. The honest man does not attach himself to any party ; but exercises with discretion the faculties with which he is endowed, whether of the positive, comparative, or superlative degree, so as to effect all the good in his power. That cases of reputed failure in vaccination multiply upon us with unusual frequency, is not to be denied ; but who will affirm that, *ergo*, vaccination is of no value ? I infer the very contrary, while I admit that its influence may not guarantee the vaccinated parties against immunity from the Small Pox, under every circumstance that may arise. The poison, being of the mildest character, may not permanently, and for an indefinite series of years, secure the human race against variolous attacks at a remote period ; but how easy a matter would it be (should enlarged and extended

experience prove the fact) to test the community occasionally with vaccine matter ; for which purpose the point of a needle would be an instrument sufficient ; and thus expel the deadly foe from our lovely island. I had a cousin from Yarmouth, in Norfolk, upon a visit with me, who contracted the variola on two occasions, as certainly as I did on one.

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ULCERS, MALIGNANT OR CARCINOMATOUS.

A fatal instance of lingual ulcer occurred about five years ago (in the treatment of which I had a share.) The case elicited a considerable portion of difference of opinion among the surgeons consulted on the occasion : there was, however, a perfect unanimity, as the case was advancing towards destruction. The husband, (not the kindest spouse in the world,) stung with remorse, gave vent to his distressing feelings by impugning the imperfection of the healing art, till I was obliged repeatedly to remonstrate with him, saying, “ My unhappy friend, why censure us—surely some diseases are incurable ? If it please God to visit you or me with such a one, we ought rather to be ‘ dumb, and not open our mouths.’ ” He replied, “ Oh ! but could the case not have been seen and known earlier, and provision made accordingly ? ” “ Doubtless,” said I, “ in more instances than the public are aware of ; but what human discernment can

distinguish an adder from an eel, when the creature first betrays symptoms of life ?”

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ON THE GOOD EFFECTS OF WINE IN FEVER, IN A  
STATE OF COLLAPSE.

About five years ago, Mr. D——, of Queen-street, was attacked with ardent fever and high delirium, ushered in by a severe rigour. The family practitioner had employed no depletory measures, either general or local. At the expiration of ten days, being upon the spot, I was requested to see the patient. As his state was most ungovernable at this period, I recommended, with the concurrent opinion of the medical gentleman before alluded to, the antiphlogistic plan. But the disease was so fully established, that we had the mortification to witness only the increase of every symptom, until black sordes covered the tongue and teeth. Muttering and delirium followed ; the patient constantly lying on his back, with extreme prostration, and picking the bed-clothes, while all evacuations were perfectly involuntary. Mr. Ford and Dr. Babington now saw him, and we all considered the case as almost hopeless. A little Port Wine was now offered him, which he readily drank, and in the course of the next day he swallowed the contents of another bottle. Ratioecination began now to dawn ; and in the two last doubtful days we

added brandy. I studiously withheld the use of medicine, lest sickness should be induced, which might possibly defeat that restoration which appeared now to be gradually advancing. At one time we feared that the patient would have fallen a victim to phthisis; but by a removal into the country air, his health was completely re-established. In order to prevent the communication of the pestiferous perfumes which were beyond all description offensive, we kept a lamp continually burning, over which was a saucer of vinegar, with a view of neutralising, by the acetic steam, the ammoniacal gas so copiously emitted from the patient. By this, together with constant ventilation and the aid of tobacco smoke, we succeeded (under God) in preserving from infection all the parties in attendance. That the theory is correct, I am not disposed to contend; but the success of the plan was so complete, that not an individual became infected.

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Dr. C—— related at a meeting of the Medical Society assembled in Bolt-court, in March 1823, the case of a gentleman to whom he was called in at a stage of fever where bleeding was out of the question, as there were black sordes about the teeth and upon the tongue. Small quantities of Tinct. Opii and Wine were prescribed, and the good effects were such as perfectly to surprise him. The sordes gradually disappeared, and Dr.



C—— withdrew his services, confidently believing the patient to be convalescent; but after a few days, the malignant symptoms returned with an aggravated character: cough, viscid secretions loaded the trachea, and he expired apparently by suffocation. I purpose to suggest the following query to Dr. C——, Might not these symptoms have been prevented from returning by a more ample recourse to the vinous stimuli?

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Master B——, æt. 9, was exposed to wet about the commencement of the long protracted winter of 1822—3, and became a subject of ordinary fever, for which the parents gave a considerable quantity of Pulv. Antimonialis and Calomel, with which I furnish many of the families residing at some distance from my usual routine, and of the efficacy of which, as a febrifuge, I could muster a host of witnesses, although some very liberal practitioners declare it to be positively inert. In this instance, however, after a short trial, I was summoned, and finding the existence of high arterial action and an unceasing pain in the head, I not only took blood from the arm, which exhibited unquestionable proof of the necessity for the operation, but urged the application of leeches to the temples. Purgatives removed dark and foetid carbonated evacuations. I also ordered diluents and ventilation. By these expedients he gradually improved, although

we were alarmed by subsultus tendinum, constant vigilance, dark sordes, and feeble pulse. This caused me to fear that he had entered upon that stage called collapse. I now prescribed Tinet. Opii seven drops, with Wine. He begun sensibly to improve after the second day; coherency returned; and the quantity of the vinous stimulant was increased to a pint per diem, with which he was supported for twelve days. I withheld, in this case also, all aid from medicine, fearing lest sickness should be induced, and the restorative process be frustrated. He showed, for five days, a slight tendency to phthisis, by an afternoon flush and morning perspiration, but his airy residence on Stepney Green, together with cool clothing and milk and water diet, favoured his recovery. The acetie steam was in this case, again resorted to, and appeared to neutralise the ammoniaical gas supposed to emanate from the diseased patient, none of the anxious attendants being infected.

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## UTERINE IMBECILITY.

Mrs. H——, æt. 25, had been married seven months without any symptoms of pregnancy. Four years previous to her marriage, from accidentally getting into the wrong coach, she was under the necessity of using extraordinary exertion, and actually walked thirty miles. From which

period, probably owing to the injury occasioned by the extreme fatigue, catamenia was imperfectly performed, always with agonizing pain, and pale and scanty, which brought on carditis. The case was scientifically treated by venesection in three operations, which left her greatly reduced in exterior. The Salt and Carbonate of Iron were prescribed, a variety of remedies having afforded no relief. The catamenial evacuation improved in colour, the pain by which it was attended on each subsequent occasion reduced, and at the expiration of four months she appeared to have been put in possession of as much vigour and cheerfulness as was compatible with her delicate temperament. Here, however, it is worthy of remark, that the Carbonate having been omitted for nine days, my patient laboured under an increasing degree of pain until it was resumed. Time and generous diet, it is now predicted, will suffice for every purpose, and a state of pregnancy, which, under her improved health, may reasonably be expected, will complete the satisfaction of the parties interested.

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UTERINE HEMORRHAGE.

Having, during my minority, enjoyed the marked attention of Edward Rigby, M.D., it is both natural and grateful that I should have imbibed somewhat of the spirit of that eminent master in the

obstetric practice. Superadded to his ingenious and correct views on the subject, it is, I believe, the present opinion of practitioners in that important department, that the late amiable Princess Charlotte, "The nation's hope, the nation's pride," would have been rescued from premature and unexpected death, had the vaginal plug been fully kept up, and copious libations of brandy been administered. In proof of the propriety of sometimes administering ardent spirits in cases of labour, to say nothing of the sensible benefit accruing from its use as an internal stimulus, it is remarkable that it will be swallowed by the patient with as much facility as milk under such circumstances, although the stomach may not previously have been accustomed to its reception.

The community is uncommonly indebted to Dr. Ramsbotham for his suggestion of substituting external manual pressure, until the womb shall permanently contract, and thus preclude the possibility of continuing the hemorrhage, which I have known to exist, for want of this expedient, *quasi amnis*.

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Dr. B— says, that notwithstanding a very considerable quantity of blood has escaped, there will continue a full pulse, although venesection has been vigorously pursued. There will also be throbbing pain in the head, of a peculiar character, and the



party will, in appearance, be exsanguineous ; yet no further relief is practicable by continued depletion, and must be sought only by caution and perseverance in the exhibition of stimuli.

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THE UTERUS RUPTURED UNDER AN ACT OF TURNING.

Mr. —, an intelligent and extensive accoucheur, called me up about two in the morning, to assist him in a bad midwifery case. Some one, in the interim, had gone for Dr. —. I attended to the summons instantly, and found, on entering the room, the practitioner pulling the foetus by the feet ; and on occasionally losing his hold, the infant receded with a splashing sound, as if it had fallen into a washing tub. Such was the sensation conveyed to my ears. I left the management of this department to himself, whilst I endeavoured to resuscitate the fainting and exhausted mother. I gave her a few drops of brandy ; but could not get more than a tea-spoonful down her throat before she sunk to rally no more. Dr. — now entered the room. I was glad to return ; leaving the unwelcome intelligence to be communicated by other lips to the friends of the deceased.

On a subsequent opportunity, I asked what were the circumstances which led to the necessity or propriety of turning in that case. I was informed, he had been accustomed to attend the family, and was

expecting to be summoned, which he was about eleven at night. The presentation was the head, as usual, but with one hand spread over the face. This appeared to me an insufficient reason. I further feared that the usual caution of pausing during the uterine action had not been attended to, and that the rupture actually took place under such circumstances. My fears may not, however, be founded in fact; and as no opportunity of post mortem examination was permitted, it must remain a matter of doubt.

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A Lecturer on Midwifery informed his pupils, that a fool-hardy practitioner being compelled to introduce his hand into the uterus, during a paroxysm, he felt disposed to try the effect of resistance with his finger only. The parturient patient called out "You have pricked me." The result was, rupture and dissolution. The post mortem dissection exhibited this statement of the sufferer to be too correct.

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#### THE ADVANTAGES OF VENTILATION.

About twelve years ago, a company of thirty medical practitioners inquired of Dr. Lettsom, their indefatigable president, whether it could be satisfactorily explained "to what cause it is attributable

that fever yields more speedily now, under our febrifuge resources, than it did at former periods ?” So interesting a question required time and examination. The pulse of the party was tested, and, as if by a simultaneous concession, expressed in silence. The Doctor rose, and taking off his University chapeau, which he laid upon the serpent staff of Esculapius, replied, “ I feel exceedingly gratified by the proposition of this universally important question. I fully concur with the learned body, and I attribute it, first, to the greater activity of the means we are now in the general habit of resorting to ; and, secondly, to the spread of philosophical truth inculcating the necessity of constant ventilation. It is no secret to the gentlemen assembled in this room, that a man in good health requires a gallon of atmospheric air per minute for his support ; labouring under disease, then, how greatly is the necessity increased ! ”

Dr. Dormier, of Stockholm, attributed to the neglect of admitting fresh air to diseased subjects, in his native Sweden, the terrible waste of human life. In one room, he observed, there would be four layers of beds and mattresses from the floor to the ceiling, fully occupied with patients, with windows not constructed to open, so that the door was the only passage for the ingress and egress of pure or foul air. The medical officers of our army and navy, particularly those who had served in the Peninsula, especially at Cadiz, concurred in Dr. D.’s

statement, as to the similarity of the practice of excluding air adopted in many hospitals, &c. abroad, though perhaps not to so great an extent as it existed in Sweden.

I have been called in, on two occasions, to visit a family, labouring under fever, in Little Britain, at both of which periods the disorder was principally attributable to the neglect of ventilation, which is but too common among some parts of the dense population of the Metropolis. I seldom enter the habitation but I commence, *vi et armis*, to open the window, allowing the supercharged phlogiston to escape, until a salutary equilibrium is restored. As the moralists agree that "prevention is better than cure," I recommend the simple diffusion of vinegar steam, by means of a lamp, which, I am satisfied, has preserved several hundred individuals from the malignant attacks of fever.

With the purest of motives, the wisdom of our legislature voted 5000*l.* for the alleged discovery of the muriatic acid vapour, disengaged by the sulphuric acid poured upon common salt, as a preventive against the communication of fever. As far as my experience furnishes me with data, this is by no means equal in efficacy to the acetic acid, and with the additional inconvenience, that the former is irritating to the lungs of the poor patient, already borne down by disease ; and the latter is refreshing to all parties, if not carried up to a degree of heat that will force out empyreuma. I possess additional



and growing proof of its efficacy, believing that it has a capacity, by its acidulous, gaseous powers, of neutralizing the volatile alkaline effluvia generating with and emanating from the diseased parties. I have just received additional proof of the value of the plan, where close contact and fearful exposure have subjected the healthy to extreme danger; and the process has been conducted with general security and perfect safety.

In confirmation of the fact, that rulers are not always just in rewarding merit, I give the following instance :—I invited to dine with me a Mahometan from Constantinople, (a relative by alliance,) who suffered me to comment freely upon the absurdities of fatalism, and of the Koran, on the deficiencies of the Christian sabbath, on the character of the plague, and on the weakness of the Turkish government. I inquired of him respecting that prophecy so long incorporated with their best writings, viz. “That their Empire will be broken by the yellow children.” He, correcting my statement, replied, that “Russia is the Turkish word for yellow;” that “the prophetic words are, ‘By the children of the Yellows.’ It runs in the genitive case, plural number.” It would not be politic to suggest as much to Alexander, the head of the execrable alliance. He added, “As to the wisdom of the Emperor, I’ll give you a proof of it: Just before I left Constantinople, a celebrated performer entertained him with the organ,

when, a recompense being expected, he sagely ordered the bellows-blower to have equal proportion with the performer, urging this, that he had rather more work to do than the other."

What a glorious recompense Sir Robert Wilson inherits, who ventured his life so gallantly, as the Scripture says, "In the high places of the field" of battle, leading the troops of the British Invincibles!

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#### THE USE OF THE VECTIS.

When practising as an accoucheur, and occasionally meeting with laborious cases rendering it doubtful whether nature would be perfectly competent to expel the infant by uterine efforts, the Vectis was, in the hands of Dr. Dennison, an efficient instrument, and always used with complete success to the parties, by which means a delay of several hours' solicitude and pain was prevented, and the triumph of the obstetric art made manifest.

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#### WATER-DOCTORS

Are generally natives of Germany. Several years since I was inquiring of a German the nature of their education, expressing my surprise at the correctness of their pathology. He replied, we reckon them all empirics. A few of my patients, after

being wearied with ineffectual excercises of hope, have repaired to them. Mrs. D——, of the Borough, took the urine of a beloved daughter for the inspection of Dr. M——, who described most correctly the seat of the disease, which was in the liver. I was so struck with the truth of the statement, that I continued my visits, to witness the result of the new plan. The patient however obtained no relief from the medicine administered, and expired, uttering those consoling words of the prophet, “At evening time it shall be light.”

During one of those visits, waiting to be summoned by rotation, Dr. M. came laughing into the hall, where twenty or thirty persons were assembled, with a phial, returning it to a man who followed him looking confounded, whilst the Doctor continued an uninterrupted roar, exclaiming, with a most elevated voice, This man wants to know whether he is pregnant. It seemed he thought to play a hoax upon the learned Doctor, and affected to inquire whether his wife were pregnant, and actually brought his own urine.

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## INJURIOUS VIGILANCE

Was exemplified in the person of Miss L——, whose exposure, about fifteen years since, under a protracted domestic visitation, to incessant watching, deprivation of sleep, and anxiety on the issue

of multifarious efforts on the part of skilful men, combined to produce an exquisite and constant pain along the whole spine, with an inability to sit up but a scanty portion of time. The affection was, for fourteen years called nervous, but I scouted the phraseology altogether, and declared the case to be an affection of the spinal marrow, which being encased with unyielding bone, rendered access to the diseased parts difficult. There is appended to this case an occasional and curious paroxysm of spasm about the region of the trachea (which is denominated nervous also,) probably the result of diseased action lower down. Undisturbed rest and the recumbent posture was of course the preliminary procedure; but the active occupation of the subject (superintending a large academy) precluded the possibility of submitting to the proposal, and a partial vesication was put in force, with a view, peradventure, of advantage, but (as might be judged, under such circumstances,) without any effect. The lady is *ætatis* 40, and unless some persevering process be followed up with true spirit, I fear will be a sufferer throughout the residue of her days.

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## VERTIGINOUS AFFECTION.

Mr. F——, *ætatis* 55 years, had vertiginous symptoms, which were attributed, by two medical men in succession, to a disordered state of the



digestive organs. A tedious process was re-commenced, and patiently endured; but the system adopted not yielding relief, I was honoured by a visit. "Sir," I said, "I don't know that I can promise better success." However, after hearing the detail of the circumstance of a blow upon the head, I entertained a hope that cupping might serve as a basis for relief, on which to rear the superstructure of health and accustomed activity. His report was most favourable: for the loss of blood was attended with more advantage than we had anticipated. The pulse, though good, was not sufficiently vigorous for the lancet, and the dyspeptic symptoms quickly ceased altogether. Upon the first inspection of the case, I considered the stomach affection as sympathetic of a disease of the brain, which organ, I thought, was overcharged with blood, and some having been abstracted, the due discharge of gastric action followed; an event which proved the truth of the apprehension. Nature also had kindly assisted the patient with inappetency, aware that food and chyle must of necessity have added to the distress of the party. Hitherto the remedies had all been directed to the restoration of the appetite, but this had been found impracticable. The local depletion relieved him from vertigo, which I think might probably in the end have degenerated into apoplexy. It also restored the stomach to a good tone for plain food.

## A CAUTION RESPECTING THE WATER-CLOSET.

About the year 1802, Mr. L——, of the Bank, called to consult me on the subject of a disagreeable discharge from the urethra, for which he was utterly at a loss to account. Upon inspection, I instantly recognised the ordinary gonorrhœa, and said, “L——, this is venereal.” He dropt on the chair, and swooned, as if by syncope. By the application of Hartshorn, &c. he revived, opening his eyes, looking pale and perspiring. L——, conscious of his purity, said that it was impossible. I replied by adverting to the possibility of his receiving the infection from the deposit of the insidious virus on the seat of the water-closet, by the preceding visitant, knowing that it is occasionally so transmitted. He then informed me there was in the house at that time an inmate much diseased. Conceiving that he was injured for life, he wept for some time. I at length pacified him, by kind words. “My friend,” I said, “I certainly began to judge harshly of your want of religion, but you have perfectly cleared yourself in my mind, and I can promise, in six or eight days, to be able to congratulate you with *mens sana, in corpore sano*.” L—— has now a lovely and fruitful wife, and puts forth unimpaired his calculating powers as cashier in the immense establishment with which he is connected.

I am occasionally visited by anxious mothers, bringing their young daughters, under similar circumstances. Such cases are constantly attributable to the same cause, and I always find some impure inhabitant giving rise to these distressing symptoms. In one family there were three daughters exposed to similar contagion. I urged the erection of a private closet, precluding the possibility of all subsequent infection from such polluted sources.

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THE WEANING PERIOD.

Weaning is the first infantile affliction assigned by nature. The proper period to wean a child is doubtful. Possibly it may be correct to say, as long on the breast as in the womb. Mothers, however, offer grave objections to this necessary trial, and, by depriving them too early of their natural aliment, induce a degenerate or feeble temperament in the little innocents. My observation leads me (with growing accuracy) to the conclusion, that cartilage is never converted into osseous matter until weaning is completed; and when nature is obstructed in her energetic powers, she substitutes, as the best effort she is capable of, a proportionate increase of cartilaginous matter for that healthy and substantial bone which is to support the child in its progress to maturity, and in its

subsequent journey through life. Under such disadvantageous circumstances, nevertheless, the absorbents will act upon the deformed redundancy, under a tedious process of patient perseverance; for (*nil desperandum*) nature as well as conscience will keenly resist every violation offered against her wise prohibitions. If a reason be required why partial weaning should be insufficient, according to this statement, I can assign none; but I could exhibit a cloud of witnesses in proof; and indeed nature herself, after the fourth month of lactation, begins to grasp at a crust, intimating that the maternal milk is barely adequate for the nourishment of the little immortal, who soon comes to relish minute shreds of meat, well prepared and made savory, to the mortification of the nurse, who fails in the accustomed attraction of the breast.

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DANGER FROM SITTING IN WET APPAREL.

A Plumber's man had a call of duty a few miles out of town. While occupied about his work, his hat being laid aside, the lazy country boors (foolishly playing the cockney a trick) immersed his hat in water. About to return home, the concealed chapeau was, after long search, found in the cistern, where he had been labouring. Chagrined, he wrung it as dry as possible, placed it on his head,



and returned home. A severe cold was the necessary consequence, with a dry, hoarse cough, purulent expectoration, emaciation, night sweats, evening chills, &c. In this state his anxious wife requested I would see him. He was irrecoverably sinking. I attended him while life remained, at his residence on Lambeth Hill, where he expired.

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## WHOOPIING COUGH.

The Rev. Mr. S—— had a little daughter affected with this disease, with large expectoration. Nearly all the children in Mr. T.'s neighbourhood were labouring under, or had passed through, Pertussis; and he called for some of my Red Powder, the happy effects of which I had witnessed from 1793 to the present period inclusive. When I called to inquire into the character of the complaint, every symptom indicative of the disease was in action, but in an incipient degree. I sent the usual quantity of Antimonii Sulphuratum Præcipitatum, blended with a minute proportion of Tartarized Antimony, for the purpose of exciting activity. Meeting perchance the darling and her mother, I naturally inquired about the cough. "Oh!" she observed, "I believe we were all mistaken: I gave your powder not more than three or four days, and she has been perfectly free from annoying symptoms since." To all such congratulators I reply,

“ We'll not dispute about that subject, but we shall all agree that it is better to extinguish a fire early than late.” I have often been mortified with a similar conclusion ; and were it not that moral feelings restrain me, I should say, “ Don't put my medicine to the test until you are quite certain of the disease.”

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## WORMS.

An evening was chiefly engrossed by the Medical Society recently in the midst of thirty practitioners, on the subject of Antielminthics. I was gratified on finding that the libellous charge of the unthinking multitude, viz. that “ medicine has its round of fashion,” is false ; that some mutable spirits cannot long move and shine in their prescribed orbits is granted, but for the most part, it is perceptible enough that a spirit of unwinking vigilance exists, which will not pander away medical aphorisms enjoying the sanction both of time and scientific experience. The sage remark of Dr. Saunders is still appreciated and confirmed, viz. that worms are for the most part the result of a delicate and debilitated constitution, and must not be lost sight of in our extreme solicitude to dislodge the living creatures which prematurely take possession of our bodies in spite of all our Antielminthics. As to the doctrine of equivocal generation, what will the theorising advocates say

when they are informed, that worms are often in the foetus in utero not ætatis nine months? They form and reside in the mucus, lying in the cavity of the bowels so securely as often to set at defiance all worm medicines whatsoever. A case was recorded, of a young lady, who had taken Ching's Lozenges, and died under their effect. It was, however admitted, that some constitutional peculiarity existed in the subject which gave rise to such extraordinary and destructive commotion.

Chamberlain's Treatise on the Stizolobium, (Cowage) was referred to, as containing many valuable cases. Spirit Terebinthinæ in tænia is held in general repute. As far as my experience extends, it dislodges the annoying animal at its little black head and neck, from whence it refuses to withdraw under the effect of our worm medicines, which are found efficacious to remove several joints only, leaving that insidious and injurious portion to replenish *ad libitum*.

## APOPLEXY UNDER EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Mr. P——, of Pall-mall, had assembled a convivial party, who, after having passed through the vain and insipid amusement of turning over in almost an endless variety the many-coloured coats of kings, queens, and knaves, (happy association for the entertainment of the wise, the mighty, and the noble!) sat down satiated with their evening's amusement, to an elegant supper. The folding doors were thrown open, to extend to its utmost limits the hospitable table, spread with every delicacy that could gratify a pampered appetite. The party had not commenced their repast before Mr. P—— suddenly fell down motionless. Surgical aid was instantly procured; both arms were incised by the lancet, and no means left untried to restore animation, but without effect. At length, after fruitless efforts, the body was extended upon one of the sofas, and the company took their departure, to reflect, we hope, on the vanity of sublunary grandeur. The two footmen who had been dressed to wait upon the gay party, were stationed to keep watch during the night. Two hours had scarcely elapsed before one of them suggested to his companion, that they might as well partake of some of the luxuries which had been provided, the whole of which yet stood untasted on the table. The proposal was followed



up by practice, and after partaking plentifully of the solids, the vigilant domestics finished their evening's entertainment with such copious libations of the wines and spirits, that a state of drunken insensibility succeeded, from which they did not recover all night. In the morning the two watchers were found loudly snoring, and, shocking to relate, the sofa on which the mortal remains of Mr. P—— rested, was deluged with blood that had issued from both of the lancet orifices.

The inference is obvious—the medical agent, if the pulse had been found feeble, should have roused the patient by some stimulant, such as brandy, and should have patiently waited until the purple tide had by such means been caused to flow: then the liberal use of the lancet (afterwards securing the wounds of course,) might have prolonged a life, that may perhaps be said to have been sacrificed to the imprudence of the surgeon, and the beastly and impious drunkenness of the servants.

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Mr. B——, of Shoreditch, ætatis 60, with whom I first became acquainted nearly thirty years ago, was extremely delicate in appearance, and his pulse was so feeble, that my uneasiness was excited lest he should fall a victim to phthisis; and amid the varied resources of the healing art in those days, I reposed considerable confidence in Chalybeates, occasional relapses compelling me to resort

to the customary tonic of Iron. For ten years he required no medical aid; but during the last two years his pulse had acquired such a vigorous tone, accompanied with head-ache and flushed countenance, as to excite my serious apprehensions as to the rupture of a vessel in the brain. Cupping, and leeching in particular, became the order of the day, the relief thus afforded always justifying the measures; but the pulse continuing unabated in its fulness, I was obliged to insist upon further local depletion twice or thrice a week, which proved sufficient for every purpose in subjugating the menacing symptoms; and after several months' perseverance, I flattered myself the valuable vessel was safely moored in port.

Suggestions by a third party are, I own, sometimes useful, as I recollect one from Miss Herschel was; but for the most part they are unwise; and in this case it was unfortunately suggested by some busy-body, that the patient should take wine. Had the proposal emanated from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, I should not have been surprised, though alarmed; for he would have dosed him with two bottles per diem. I should go beyond Paul's restriction, whose advice, you know, is, "take a little wine,"—I should say, take nothing stronger than water, if you intend to live all the days of your life. The wine, which he took in compliance with the suggestion, augmented the vigorous tone of the patient's pulse, and called forth a general eruption

of a miliary character over the whole cuticle, which appeared to me to be the result of nature's prodigious powers, to prevent the scaling of the citadel ; and indeed the patient acknowledged that his head was less encumbered by uneasiness, since the eruption had burst forth.

Mr. B—— is a religious man, and consequently temperate, and I trust, if he shut his ears to the nonsensical ignorance of “ old wives’ fables,” he will yet do much more good in the world.

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## ABSCESS.

The abscess of the female breast is, for the most part, self-procured. The lacteal radii distend subsequent to the milk fever, and lay the foundation of this unexpected visitation. If the secretion of milk be redundant, nature's muscular exertions (being scantily furnished at those parts) are generally incompetent to afford effectual relief ; to remedy which, manual friction and mechanical support should supply the deficiency. In the whole of my obstetric practice, I have met with but a solitary instance of failure, and this I fairly attribute to the intensity of heat in the air at that particular period, joined to the confinement of the parturient party in a snug recess, which deprived her of a change of atmospheric air, which is perfectly requisite under such circumstances, even in winter.

I generally apprise the monthly nurse of the necessity of unwinking vigilance, to prevent the appended sufferings; charging her that a broken breast is always owing to the neglect of the nurse. On my following visit, perhaps, I am informed, "Sir, I would have obeyed your orders, but my mistress would not suffer the breast to be touched." I instantly besmear my hands with pomatum, and begin to make trial by friction and pressure. At first, no impression is perhaps made upon the hardened mass, but in a few minutes it will become malleable (the patient herself much relieved) and finally be rendered soft; the milk oozing liberally during the process. The exertion will promote perspiration plenteously. The secret is now apparent to all; and the fear of abscess ceases with the first application. The operation may require repetition, until the infant supersedes any further necessity.

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## ANIMAL HEAT.

The discussion of the subject of animal heat generated, in our anatomical theatres, great irritation about the year 1790, and the opinions of Hewson, Crawford, &c., were referred to as almost oracular. The talents, however, elicited by the discussion have illumined our medical horizon, and, by a development of facts, which have been con-



firmed by succeeding periods, set at rest all doubts on this interesting subject. It was a profound treat to experience the free intercourse with stars of the first magnitude which the discussion produced, at the period alluded to :—Clarke, Home, Cooper, Haighton, Cline, Chevalier, Blair, Coleman, Frazer, Heberden, Fothergill, and a host of the order of Sirius, severally exercising their edifying talents, and contributing to irradiate the minds of the vigilant and attentive students. In the end all arrived at the same conclusion, which Scripture settles without sophistical disputation, namely, that

“ The blood is the *life* of the animal.”

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## ANEURISM

Is a disease so insidious and untractable as commonly to baffle all attempts at cure. A general practitioner cannot, in his circle, possess much experience of this arterial malady. If every instance of operative trial were candidly recorded, I presume for one successful case we should read of six failures. I have long been surprised at the reported multitude ; and should I have any influence on a succeeding occasion, I should put to the test the effect of long-continued pressure, where the disease will admit of it ; say the popliteal ; for if we notice the extraordinary exertion made by na-

ture to prevent the fatal rupture, it is to be inferred that some efficacious facility may be afforded by that simple process only ; and possibly absorption may preserve a limb or a life, and the anastomosing circulation be preserved entire. We are much indebted to the labours of present luminaries, in dedicating their time and talents to this mysterious disease ; but a moral lesson may be gathered, in which our impure youths are deeply interested. Some say that ptyalism will predispose the arteries to assume this disease. If it be fact, I shall be put in possession of an additional argument to warn young men to avoid still more the lures of the prostitute. I have long remonstrated with such sensual characters, on the injury that may possibly be inflicted on the youthful bride, and, by a further reasoning, the transmission of weakness, if not disease, to their progeny.

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#### AN ASTHMATIC AFFECTION.

Mr. W——, ætatis 57, of a spare habit of body, required my assistance. His skin exhibited appearances of fever : his pulse 108. He complained of no uneasiness or difficulty, except on an exposure to cold air, and in ascending : could lie in bed on either side with equal ease. The kidneys and primæ viæ also appeared in regular order. He had been under the care of Dr. Laird for nearly three

years, of whom he spoke in terms of just praise. "Do you remember any circumstance of sitting in wet clothes, which might furnish occasion for these symptoms?" "Yes; about three years since I was busily occupied in removing valuable goods from a cellar which had been overflowed by a high tide of the Thames. I was in the water, above my knees, for full two hours. I had a severe fit of illness at the time, which degenerated into the present character." This plain statement put me in possession of all necessary information. I felt that there was no probability of relieving him, considering the case as corroborative proof, *cum multis aliis*, of nature's surprising powers in rescuing a subject from fatal phthisis, (of which his sister died eighteen years since,) though entailing upon him asthma of a mild character the residue of his days. My answer was, that Dr. Laird is a much wiser man than myself; I advise you to place implicit reliance on his superior judgment.

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## ANODYNES.

Anodynes disagree with and distress all temperaments of an athletic character; and persons possessing a pulse generally vigorous will be able to detect the smallest quantity of Laudanum. I have no doubt that many persons, who have been deceived and imposed upon by professional promises,

are reluctant in seeking scientific aid, fearful of a recurrence of the distress which they have experienced from the use of Laudanum. The high action of the cerebrum with a constitutional firmness of pulse, rendering the party intuitively aware of Opium augmenting the volume of blood, or transmitting its injurious influence through the medium of the nerves.

Promises of all kinds should be inviolate. I have been frequently compelled to sympathise with patients under such circumstances, protesting, at the same time, against the unauthorised liberty on the other hand : few men would resent dictation with more warmth than myself.

Contrary to the French practitioners, we find that all maniacal cases are furnishing pabulum to mental aberration or incoherency by opium. Granted that such patients are seldom disposed to sleep, and if “ they sleep they will do well ;” but anodyne narcotics are not the appropriate remedial resources. Here the introduction of *Succus* or *Extract Glecom. Hederac.* is of superlative importance. It appears to arrest and “ bind the strong man,” who sleeps like Sampson in the lap of Delilah, but awakes to liberty and ratiocination : it does not confine the bowels nor pall the appetite : it tranquillizes, whilst it possesses no soporific effect of the character appertaining to all our customary composing remedies hitherto acknowledged.



## BILIOUS FEVER.

Miss L.S——, ætat. 12, of St. Paul's Church-yard, whom I brought into the world, was attacked with bilious fever, after having indulged in an unusual manner in rich animal food, nearly to the exclusion of vegetables. The symptoms were tenderness on the abdomen, very unhealthy fæculent matter torpidly evacuated, a sharp wiry pulse, thickly furred tongue and unceasing moaning, with pain in the bowels. The state of the patient scarcely justifying the lancet as a preliminary measure, I briskly acted on the bowels by Hydr. Submuriat Basilic Powder and Ol. Ricini. The character and quantity of the evacuations proved that purgatives would accomplish every thing. The patient would swallow nothing but water as a refreshment, to which I gave my unqualified approbation. Three days' vigorous action exhausted the patience of the parents; and we had a formal meeting, at which they expressed their fears that they should lose their dear Louisa. My confidence of her recovery was unequivocally expressed; but they urged that her taking nothing but water all the time must lead to debility and death. "Poh!" I replied: "Does not the Scripture say, 'He drinketh no water, and is faint,' obviously implying its value as a beverage." Reposing implicit reliance on their medical friend, another day was permitted to pass, when

the bowels exhibited a mixed appearance of healthy bile. She soon afterwards asked for light food, which she ate with a relish, became cheerful, and the practitioner took his leave.

The great medical secret appears to be in ascertaining, with perfect acumen, when and how to pull down, and subsequently to build up. The discrepancies in the healing art appear to be a divergence from this standard focus, in the exact proportion in which one practitioner excels another. The most appalling blunders appear, upon reflection, to have been committed by us all, for want of this necessary discernment; and, were it not that other lives may be rescued by the frank confession, it might involve a degree of criminality, though unintentionally; yet good may ultimately result. Human life is a sacred deposit entrusted to our charge. All look for honour, as a *sine qua non*, in the lawyer, and of piety in the priest; but, in the medical department, acumen seems to be the especial ingredient to mould the character of its members, to evince that they are duly qualified to possess the confidence of the diseased community.

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To avoid a redundant increase of bile is desirable; but some nursery laws are preposterously absurd. Britain being a reading and reflecting nation, the general reader, wisely dipping occasionally into medical books, knows that fat and

sweet things, such as butter and sugar, generate a redundaney of bile, or furnish that which is bad in quality, both of which states of the bile are termed, properly enough, bilious diseases. Some parents, fearing this evil, run into the opposite extreme, and absurdly prohibit the use of both butter and sugar. How prone to excess is our nature ! How many " popular errors " would be immediately corrected, were we only to consult the volume of inspiration. " All things are good, and nothing to be refused, if received with thanksgiving and prayer." These delicate plants, compelled to abstain from even a moderate share of the common necessaries, are often exposed to the visitation of mesenteric marasmus.

Several years ago, I entertained a dissenting minister, when this subject was fully discussed. I had long been in the daily habit of using *Extraet. Colocynth. Composit.* as the best general antibilious remedy. Some time after he thanked me very gratefully for making him acquainted with that valuable compound. He said that some of his flock laboured under bile, who could obtain no relief from the medical practitioner, (I presume a Brunonian,) and had been quickly set up by the bitter apple pill.

I recollect a lady, whose objection was so strong against " coarse meats, such as beef and mutton," that her three daughters were exclusively nourished by white and fine flesh, judging, of course, that the

### 362 DISTENDED BLADDER.—COSTIVE BOWELS.

cuticular covering of her dearest girls would participate in the same colour. The three hopeful ladies, when arrived at maturity, were by no means so prepossessing in their exterior as their fond parent had indulged a hope they would be.

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#### DISTENDED BLADDER.

Cases of distended bladder in both sexes have imposed upon the most discerning practitioners in surgery, cognisable only by an accidental introduction of the catheter, prior to the proposed operation of tapping, which would, in all probability, have proved fatal. Actually during the complaint of incontinence of urine, it should seem that even under a perpetual dribbling, there will arise a distended vesica, cognisable by painless paralysis of the muscles of that viscus, allowing an extended enlargement capable of containing four gallons. No well authenticated instance is yet recorded of the actual rupture under such circumstances.

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#### THE NECESSITY OF ATTENDING TO THE BOWELS

Was manifested in the person of a young female, who was seized with anomalous pains in the arm, commencing at the fingers; the periodical attacks being so painful and frequent, as completely to



disqualify the subject. This state of things continued for two years, under a variety of rubefacients and fomentations; and, upon inquiry, it was found that the bowels had been long neglected; evacuations only taking place every second or third day. Efficient purgatives were now put in requisition, which, having produced an amendment, were followed up by perseverance, and in five or six weeks the diseased paroxysms ceased altogether.

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## BIRTH DURING THE ERECT POSTURE OF THE MOTHER

Is necessarily attended with injury to the infant, not only from the original blow inflicted upon the head, but from the violent rupture and division of the funis. In the reports of criminal cases, we frequently read of medical men stating it as their firm belief, that infants born under such circumstances must necessarily die from loss of blood. I have never read such an opinion without surprise; for, in every case of a similar nature which has come under my notice, I have uniformly been struck with nature's resources. It should seem that the gravitating weight of the infant diminishes the calibre of the vessels so completely before the rupture of the naval-string, as to close the orifice almost as effectually as if hermetically sealed, and thus, by a beautiful provision of nature to preserve

life, fatal hemorrhage is prevented. It by no means follows (the sensation is so deceptive) that a female is guilty of infanticide, who, wishing to conceal her pregnancy, suffers the illegitimate fruit of her amour to escape into the privy, by which means it is necessarily suffocated. I have known an individual who by his solemn testimony caused a poor girl to be hanged, under the persuasion, at the time, of her murderous intention, but who at a subsequent period, being better informed upon the subject, was so convinced of his mistake, that he publicly declared he should never again be a happy man.

“Life is a sacred charge,” it behoves us therefore to pause before pronouncing an opinion which may consign a fellow-creature to infamy and death.

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#### BALDNESS.

The premature loss of hair occurs principally in the male, is most frequent amongst the industrious part of society, and is said to be the result of excessive perspiration. It is the original law, that “by the sweat of his brow,” or his brain, “man shall eat his bread.” Hair, being classed with the non-conductors of heat, may, by its deficiency, grant a very important immunity from cerebral affections, and very probably from hemiplegia and apoplexy. I decry all attempts at

lessening the natural or aquired deformity, by artificial adornings, particularly where head-ache seems to result from those extraneous appendages. I have associated for more than twenty years with a voluminous writer, who had often spoken to me of the falling off of his hair; but to whom I only prescribed patience. On one occasion the little hair he had left came off in one night, leaving him (to use his own phrase) as bare as a monk. On his complaining to me, I said, "Oh! my dear Sir, this may be the very means nature is employing to prolong your valuable life; knowing your strong tendency to apoplexy, to which you appear very assailable, follow up the suggestion by moistening the scalp with ardent spirit, to carry off the redundant heat, and be sure, never neglect the bowels, which so many literary men are guilty of."

The unfortunate Queen of France, (whom I used, thirty years ago, to denominate Jezebel,) experienced, in the depth of her peculiar calamities, a sudden change of colour in her beautiful head of hair.

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## A BUBO IN THE ARM-PIT.

A gentleman called upon me to inspect his finger, which certainly presented a very peculiar appearance, such as most practitioners would pronounce chanerous. My inquiries drew from him a confession that a few days before he had been

pulling about a wanton female, with whom he had no sexual intercourse, and therefore, as he judged, could contract no venereal infection, but the finger possessing a cut unhealed, became the transmitting member of the subtle poison to the axilla, where the deposited matter would have produced a troublesome abscess, but for the timely intervention of mercurial ptyalism, which quickly dispersed it. Solomon says, "A whore is a deep ditch."

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## BLEEDING IN ANEURISM.

Many Hippocratic aphorisms are so sage and valuable as to merit transmission to the end of time. With such I class Mr. Cline's strong injunction to his pupils: "When it is a clear case that aneurism actually exists, prescribe nothing." We know we can contribute nothing to the relief of the suffering parties, and ought not to raise hopes which we never expect to see realised: but to this hour we hear of the lancet being moderately and frequently employed by the highest authorities, and, as far as my observation extends, with decided injury to the patient, as by such a process, the fatal rupture is expedited.



CHECKING THE BLEEDING ARISING FROM  
THE USE OF LEECHES.

From the commencement of my medical career in the year 1786, to the present period, I can call to mind many cases, particularly of Pneumonia, where the parties (generally children) have been consigned to a premature grave, for want of the timely application of leeches. Whether the organ implicated be the lungs or brain, the pulse, together with corresponding symptoms, will serve as an effectual indication as to the seat of it, and the necessary position of our triumphant artillery.

Provided we are not mistaken, the oozing vessels (the result of the application of leeches) will continue to exude for twelve hours or more, in exact proportion to the enlarged calibre of the inflamed vessels, and the extent of the destructive inflammation. The expected relief follows. But the friends begin to be alarmed on the ground of bleeding, which they fear will be excessive, nay, fatal (sometimes demanding professional attendance during the night); the usual gossips, on these occasions, adding to the apprehension. A little flour becomes the efficacious styptic. On the following day the medical practitioner does not discover the full amount of the benefit upon which he had calculated. The lungs are overloaded; the breathing is still laborious; the cough is attended

with pain; the restlessness and fever are undiminished; he is compelled to repeat the leeches, and, for the first time, he is informed of the fears of the interested parties. He is then obliged to add, "had you permitted the inflamed blood to flow uninterruptedly, we should have had no relapse." The complaints of debility and death are silenced by an appeal to Infinite wisdom. What, are not ample provisions made to meet your suppositions? It is an impious reflection upon the Author of our species, as if sufficient discernment had not been exercised on such matters.

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## CANCER.

A cancerous breast, removed by the knife after the duration of several years, had its origin in a blow from the elbow of a porter, heavily laden, whilst turning a corner, both parties forgetful of Solomon's counsel, "Let thine eyes look straight before thee." The blow inflicted upon the mamma produced instant and permanent pain. Had the case been treated with persevering leeching, and the use of Flor. Ammoniac. internally, it is thought by some that the subsequent distressing effects would have been avoided.

Mrs. P—— and Miss M——, of Thames-street, are living and healthful proofs of the efficacy of the process alluded to, under similar circumstances of fourteen and eighteen years' standing.

## CATARRH.

The customary remedy, of which we hear every day, is to "Feed a cold and starve a fever." Of the propriety of the latter recipe, all are agreed; but of the former, theorists are seepical. However, in my own person, I certainly feel less annoyance from catarrh after dinner than before. Dr. Saunders used to call it a disease of three days' continuance; but at the end of that period I generally find a recurrence of all the usual symptoms as at the very commencement; and owing to constant care, which I am in the habit of taking by every suitable provision in meeting the vicissitudes of the "fickle weather of Britain," it attacks me from causes wholly inexplicable. I generally ascribe it to something spontaneous: a latent principle stirs into action that which is probably injurious, affording thereby an immunity from greater evils. Unlike some febrile affections, we have no means hitherto discovered to extinguish catarrh. Measles, influenza, small-pock, &c. will all move on in a given circuit, and the utmost we can accomplish is to alleviate, not expedite. I once subjected my chest to the principle of evaporation, upon the first symptom of catarrh, which extinguished it instantly; but I should not feel myself authorised to repeat the experiment either on myself or others, lest it should induce thoracic disease, more hazardous than a severe catarrh.

## CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

Comparative anatomy presents an immense field for inquiry to the novice. The dead animals daily within our reach, if examined minutely, would in a great measure supersede the necessity of resurrection-men. When Dr. Haighton commenced lecturing on physiology, I associated with his first batch of pupils in the experiment of bleeding a dog *ad deliquium*; then, in order to recover him, another dog was blooded, whose blood was conveyed through a flexible tube to the fainting animal, and his revival effected by the loss of blood from the second. I could not separate the important truth elicited from the unusual gaiety manifested during the operation. A badger was submitted to dissection, alive, with "amazing philosophy;" which event drew down considerable and deserved censure. Who shall draw the line of demarcation, and prescribe this as the region of commendable zeal, and all beyond it as downright immorality? Throughout the residue of the days of that great man, (to whom I nevertheless feel largely indebted,) his temper proverbially thorny, and his lack of domestic comfort conspicuous, I always traced (but I may be in error) to his yielding to this spirit of inquiry, regardless of the feelings of the brute creation. For my own part,



I am such an admirer of the sentiment of humanity, that—

“ I would not enter on my list of friends,  
Though graced with polish'd manners and fine sense,  
Yet wanting sensibility—the man  
Who needlessly sets foot upon a worm.”—COWPER.

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#### CAUTION NECESSARY IN THE USE OF CALOMEL.

Dr. —— informed me, a few years ago, that his friend Dr. —— had occasion to leave Town for a few days, and begged to transfer his medical charge into his hands during his absence. For one of the patients, Mrs. ——, of Great Queen-street, labouring under cynanche, and whose bowels had not been acted on, he was induced to prescribe Hydrarg. Submiab. gr. v. The administration of the medicine was suddenly followed by ptyalism to an alarming extent, which only ceased with the patient's life: obviously owing, as the Doctor observed, to his unfortunate prescription.

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#### VARIED EFFECTS OF CALOMEL.

I have long been in the habit of passing by the house of a young stationer in Goswell-street, and one day seeing him at the door, I accosted him with “ Ah! James, how d'ye do ? ” Observing that he bore the marks of “ ruder health ” than any

grazier passing at the time on his way to Smithfield. "Little do you think," said I, "of your deep obligation to the administration of gr. 300 of Calomel in the course of three days, in a case of formidable croup a few years since; the solvent properties of which medicine rescued you from impending death, without having left a vestige of disease, or of ill effects from the remedy remaining." On the other hand, Mrs. —, under the treatment of Dr. — in cynanche, took less than gr. jii., when ptyalism of the most appalling character supervened, and she was carried off rather by the remedy than the disease.

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#### CHILDREN PLAYING WITH EDGED TOOLS.

The instances are innumerable which have come under my notice, of wounds inflicted upon various parts of the body, particularly upon that valuable organ the eye, frequently completely depriving the party of precious sight. The prongs of a fork, or the point of a pen-knife, or scissars, have penetrated the aqueous humour, entered the capsule, and borne away the crystalline lens, never to be renewed by artificial means; and of course the derangement of the delicate structure of the appendages of the entire organ precludes the possibility of its restoration. I never see children thus exposed, without lifting up my voice of remon-

strance, in the hope of preventing the occurrence of so severe an evil. Recently, a malicious boy, intending to inflict an injury upon his sister with her scissars, made a thrust at her back; but failing in disengaging his fingers, he pulled back the missile with such a jerk as to penetrate his own eye with the point, which bore away the crystalline lens.

I was a short time ago at a house where an accidental event some years since deprived the eldest daughter of an eye. An industrious person of Doctors' Commons, in cleaning one of his windows, pressed against the thin glass so forcibly as to shiver it; and unfortunately a piece entered his eye, producing so deep and extensive a laceration as to obtrude itself into the vitreous humour, depriving him of sight for the residue of his days; I sent him instantly to Mr. Ware, but the best human assistance proved unavailing.

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CHILDREN SWALLOWING POISONOUS HERBS,  
AND HOT WATER.

Our diurnal journals occasionally shock our feelings by their narration of the fatal effects of taking into the stomach deleterious and narcotic vegetables, which leave no visible trace on post mortem examination.

Botanical researches are amply remunerated by the clear and definable discernment they enable us

to make between the esculent and noxious herb, were there no other advantages resulting from them. Nature is so uniform and correct in all her operations as to admit of no doubt; both in the general appearances, and in the minuter search; nevertheless, there is a mystery which cannot be unravelled, viz. how it is that the sheep and cow, and, I presume, the horse, will never touch the leaf of a baneful narcotic plant; while man, the noblest animal of the earth, will eat of the forbidden fruit and die?

The children of the poor are in the frequent habit of drinking water cold from the spout of the tea-kettle before placing it upon the fire; a custom pregnant with danger; for, during the absence of the parent, the little ones, to whom "stolen waters are sweet," take a draught when the water is probably scalding hot; by which they necessarily vesicate the internal coats of the fauces, and death succeeds. It is surprising that the evil is not more guarded against. Little do parents think that by such an imprudent indulgence as allowing a child to drink out of a kettle, they are laying the foundation of their own remorse, and paving the way to the child's destruction.

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CHALYBEATES.

The effect of a chalybeate is sometimes so perceptible as to convince us that tonics are not



inert. Mrs. C——; of Leadenhall-street, consulted me on the subject of suppressed catamenia. I suggested the probability of the usual cause, incipient pregnancy; but I was assured that that was not the case; her sensations being unlike all former experience. “Why, Ma’am,” as Dr. Lowder used to say, “although pregnancy corresponds in the *tout ensemble* with every body, there is often an individual peculiarity.” The positive assertions, however, of the patient bore down the arguments of the practitioner, (a rare occurrence with me,) and I prescribed Sulphas and Carbonate of Iron. Luckily the womb was firmer than the practitioner. No catamenia flowed; an anomalous head-ache annoyed the patient, whose growing rotundity evinced a truth developed by “time,” which is, in some cases, the “best doctor.” The pulse became so full under the use of the Chalybeate, conjoined with the state of pregnancy, as to require the lancet; which effectually relieved the head-ache, carrying her pleasantly through the sequel of domestic solicitude without any untoward occurrence.

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CHOLICA PICTONUM

Is the result of Saturnine spicula, annoying the inner membranes of the bowels. About twelve or fourteen years since, this subject occupied the attention of the Medical Society for a whole evening.

The result of the varied discussion, I well remember, was highly interesting. The general feeling of the assiduous members was, that it mostly had its origin in the want of necessary cleanliness, the parties frequently sitting down to meals with their hands besmeared with paint, instead of detaching the insidious poison by well washing them. The heat of the hands quickly separating the paint from the cuticle, it adheres to every thing they touch; and bread being put into the mouth, the subtle poison is at the same time unconsciously swallowed; whence arises the painter's cholic, accompanied by pallid skin; and the disease, if not removed, will give rise to paralysis. Persons so attacked should defend and lubricate the bowels with Castor Oil, which will, for the most part, prevent the deposit of the latent spicula altogether; and, as the moralists say, "prevention is better than cure." Two ladies were nearly sacrificed for want of this precaution; and I attended Mr. B——, who, from motives of economy, painted his own town-house during the absence of his wife and family at their rural retreat; and not being sufficiently cautious, or perhaps not aware of danger, contracted the disease in such an aggravated form, that considerable alarm was excited as to the issue; however, after suffering tormina, employing oleaginous diluents, and enemata, the latent spicula were detached, and he recovered; but assures me he will never touch a painting brush again.

## CLARET COUNTENANCE.

The general opinion respecting such marks as a claret countenance, attracted the attention of Dr. Lowder, the obstetric lecturer, who, in order to show the fallacy of the usual reasoning, instanced a case in point:—Mrs. —, advanced in pregnancy, placed a bottle of port wine before the fire in frosty weather, to take off the chill, when, by an accident, the bottle was broken, and the contents spilled. Some of the party were superstitious enough to predict, that the child would be distinguished by a claret mark; but, on the birth of the infant, no discoloration was discernible. Since the days of this facetious lecturer, I have been introduced to another mode of explaining the phenomenon of marks upon children. Solomon says, there is “a time to embrace, and there is a time to refrain from embracing;” for want of taking heed to which simple rule, as far as my experience goes, all the afflicting occurrences of marks and distortions take place. The secreting catamenia (scarlet, purple, or brown,) precludes the propriety of marriage privileges; and nature, when her laws are violated, fixes an indelible stigma upon the uxorious parties in their disfigured children, and, as if to publish the secret offence, generally deposits the fluid upon the conspicuous part; though it is by no means restricted to the

face, I have known it to spread over the whole surface of the body, and the affliction aggravated by the dreadful calamity of an offspring both deaf and dumb.

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APPROACHES TO CONVALESCENCE SOMETIMES TARDY.

A dignified dame felt chagrined that her dear daughter was unable to receive sustenance after the fourth day of fever. "Don't you know, Ma'am," said I, "what was said to an illustrious character by his irritated mathematical tutor—'There is no royal way to Algebra;' so there is no royal way to health, though you were to command the joint opinions of fifty physicians under this splendid roof." By the next day food was requested by the interesting patient; and mamma's fears were of course dissipated.

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THE CROUP.

A fine little fellow, ætatis three years, was invited to see a terrier kill the rats which infested the cellar. He was seated upon the stairs, exposed to a constant current of air for two hours, and seemed to enjoy the sport. It was soon obvious that he had contracted a severe cold; and the croup (that most unmanageable malady) was quickly developed, which carried him off on the following day.



## AN OPAQUE CORNEA,

The probable result of neglected fever, occurred in the person of Mr. H——, of Walworth. By way of experiment, as the eye was useless, I touched the opacity once a week with the lunar caustic, at first diluted, but subsequently pure. A layer was thus removed, and the retina became partially capable of vision, as through a fog; but, after great perseverance, fearing lest the useful eye should suffer from sympathetic pain attending the application of the caustic, I was compelled to dissuade my patient from running any further risk; and I have the satisfaction to know, that if no great degree of benefit has been produced, no injury has resulted from the experiment.

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A BROKEN COLLAR BONE.

Mrs. M——, incautiously stepping out of her carriage, fell, and coming in contact with the curbstone, sustained an injury, conveying to her mind an assurance that she had dislocated the shoulder. Confident in the error, she represented it in this light to the practitioner, requesting him to replace the luxated limb. The surgeon, too gallant to suppose the lady could be mistaken, minutely examined the axilla. She presented no obstruction by an unsuitable “shame-facedness;” the whole

bust was uncovered, but no dislocation could be detected. The lady was as positive as the surgeon, and both were mistaken: another surgeon set the matter at rest. It was a simple fracture of the clavicle; and, in order to perfect the union permanently, it was only necessary to pinion the arms for a few days, and cautiously to allow of exercise.

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COLD AND COUGH CONTRACTED AT CHURCH.

Miss T——, of Aldersgate-street, ætatis 18, whom I brought into the world, having been at Church thinly elad on a very cold day, on her return felt unwell. The indisposition continuing to increase, after a lapse of ten days I was summoned. On my arrival the patient was taking roast meat, but with great difficulty of breathing, and such a dry, oppressive cough, as resembled the noise made by a canine animal more than a biped. I expressed extreme regret that some practitioner had not been called in before. The pulse was bounding; and I wondered that a pulmonie vessel had not given way, as I have occasionally witnessed; although it is a kind of evacuation not very gratifying in respect of safety. I did not take away so much blood as was requisite, my patient being very timid. As a substitute, we had her cupped on the chest to 3x. Purgatives and expectorants blended with anodynes were the whole of the immediate remedies. The blood exhibited only an

undue degree of crassamentum; the pulse was unabated, but the cough had ceased altogether. Upon taking a cautious, slow, and deep inspiration, there was a slight intercostal pain near the left lung; for the relief of which I prescribed a roller tolerably tight round the chest, of which I have frequently proved the beneficial effects. By the next day the intercostal pain had ceased, or nearly so; but as the pulse continued bounding, I urged the use of six leeches upon the part affected. The bowels continued to discharge much unhealthy matter. The young lady became convalescent earlier than I anticipated at the commencement, my prognosis at that time being, that we had two formidable adversaries to contend with, viz. inflammation of the lungs or trachea, and subsequently consumption.

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## CARDIAC AFFECTIONS.

Mr. W——, of Thames-street, while at his country residence, was for a very considerable time considered as a melancholy nervous subject, and had swallowed a prodigious quantity of the medicines usually administered for nervous complaints. On the first summons which I received to visit him at his Town habitation, upon an increase of the symptoms, I was surprised, after hearing from the anxious relatives their artless narration, to find dyspnœa, an incapacity to recline

in the recumbent posture, except in one particular position; with a bounding intermitting pulse. My report, which was unfavourable, excited the perfect astonishment of Mrs. W——, as well as her sons and daughters, who said, “Our medical friend in the country (who often dines with us) assures us we need not be alarmed.” My reply was, “On most occasions I confirm the practice of those who come before me: it is a practice I never intend to depart from: we all have our particular predilections, and should all succumb on minor points: but much as I am a proud stickler for medical etiquette, where life is at stake I instantly trample under foot all worldly courtesy and unreasonable deference.” I referred the case to Dr. Robert Willan, who instantly recognised carditis in some or other of its terrific forms, and attributed the cause to the constant elevation of ponderous bodies from the ground, peculiar to the nature of the patient’s occupation. We continually met in consultation, but the case was incurable, and Mr. W. expired under the visitation, ætatis 58. I shall never be persuaded that had that wealthy gentleman not indulged so much at the table, (O, how often is it a snare!) and had, in the incipient stages of his complaint, submitted to the depletory plan, we should not have experienced the melancholy issue which we were compelled to witness. The profuse comments on the event were awful. At the closing scene, it was remarked



by the eldest son, that now, when his father had accumulated a fortune by his own persevering industry, he was *wickedly* deprived of the enjoyment of it. But what are we to expect of even "straight-laced morality," from those who frequent the house where Satan dwelleth, (the theatre,) late on Saturday night, and on the following day are mixing with the volatile and heartless assembly in the promenade at Hyde-park, after they have frequented the parish-church, forsooth, under the mechanical prosings of the "blind leader of the blind?"

"Your streams were floating me along,  
Down to the gulph of black despair;  
And, whilst I listened to your song,  
Your streams had e'en conveyed me there.

Lord, I adore thy matchless grace,  
That warned me of that dark abyss,  
That drew me from those treacherous seas,  
And bade me seek superior bliss."

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Mr. K——, long a superintendant at the firm of the benevolent Neale and Bailey, gradually exhibited indubitable evidences of heart derangement. The pulse, for celerity, debility, and intermission, exceeded all I ever experienced in an adult; notwithstanding, the party continued unremittingly to occupy his prescribed post, like "Matthew at the receipt of custom." The disqualifying symptoms, however, gradually augment-

ing, we sought the superior aid of Mr. Cline, who pronounced the case as probably enlargement of the heart, or hydrops pericardii. The onus of the responsibility devolving on the ample skill of my amiable and venerable master, I had little to do but watch the destructive advances of an incurable malady, and trace the extraordinary potency of Christian principles. The closing scene yielded a gratifying picture of "hope beyond the grave," and domestic satisfaction; the effect of which was heightened by the pastoral presence of the Rev. Rowland Hill, a neighbour and beloved friend, who pronounced the emphatic eulogy, that he never before saw a man expire with so great a measure of Christian fortitude.

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## CONSUMPTION.

The affections of Miss Mary-Ann S——, of St. Paul's, ætatis 20, had, unfortunately, been engaged by a fickle dandy, who afterwards deserted "the weaker vessel." Becoming careless of her personal health, she, by repeated and unwarrantable exposure to cold, contracted a cough, which, by neglect, degenerated into phthisis pulmonalis. The opinion of several medical practitioners were taken; and, from the lips of the distressed mother, I was informed that no idea of danger had been suggested by any of them; although, from her own

account, there existed afternoon flushes, morning perspirations, purulent expectorations, and a remarkable emaciation of muscle. This victim of misplaced affection sat up engaged in the use of her needle within an hour of her dissolution; and I cannot help saying that it is exceedingly reprehensible in medical practitioners to flatter falsely under the guise of friendship, and temporising in doubtful cases, permitting even the exercise of hope. We should be the last to despond, lest we paralyse all exertion; but who can vindicate the cruelty of deceit under such appalling circumstances?

“ Our dearest joys, and nearest friends,  
 And partners of our blood,  
 How they divide our wavering minds,  
 And leave but half for God.

The fondness of a creature's love,  
 How strong it strikes the sense,  
 Thither the warm affections move,  
 Nor can we call them thence.

Dear Saviour! let thy beauties be  
 My soul's eternal food,  
 And grace command my heart away  
 From all created good.”

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CATAMENIA SUPPRESSED.

Miss M. A. E——, ætatis 22, consulted me on the subject of suppressed catamenia of three years' duration. Her whole contour exhibited torpor,

debility, and an exterior denoting almost *sine sanguine*; there was superadded an inactivity of the bowels, which were not relieved oftener than once in eight, ten, or fourteen days, when the exhibition resembled a large Bologna sausage which was evacuated with extreme difficulty. For the uterine imbecility, I prescribed that old-fashioned remedy, the Bark, (which, by the bye, seems to bid fair to be totally forgotten by our junior practitioners,) simply telling her to take a tea-spoonful night and morning, mixed with rum and milk. A few weeks afterwards being called to see an elder relative in the house, I was surprised to see Mary Ann with a good cheerful countenance, full about the bosom, and her general appearance so improved, that I could not help inquiring as to the cause during my absence. "What have you forgotten the prescription that you gave her?" Indeed I had; but on the narration of the case, my memory soon recurred to the circumstance; and it appeared that, after a short trial, the suppressed catamenia flowed in prodigious quantity, and has continued regular up to the present time, a period of five or six months.

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Catamenia was suddenly suppressed in the person of Miss B——, ætatis 45, of Cateaton-street, about six months since. When called in on the first occasion, the pulse exhibited only an ordinary tone: I attempted to relieve the head by leeching,



spirituous applications, aperients, and comparative abstinence, from which plan, only partial relief resulted; and the fulness increased instantly on reclining in bed, while the party laid on her back, plainly indicative of the mechanical obstruction afforded to the return of venous blood along the sinus to the heart, in the language of the old and exploded philosophy, according to the laws of gravitation. Symptoms of a cerebral character became more developed; flashings of light occasionally surprised her; uneasiness in the head was almost constant; partial abstinence rendering her no relief. As leeching sufficed for the present, I reserved the use of the lancet or the Rubigo, as nature might demand. There exists in the relative circle of this lady a tone of high nervous irritation which some of our western wiseacres denominated by the perplexing phrase "delusion," insomuch that I felt disposed to "count the cost," lest I should place my patient in a worse position than that in which I found her; for I have heard of some who "died not of disease, but of the doctor;" and when we meet with a malady we are accustomed to denominate incurable, it may be proper to attempt the cure in a legitimate way before we resort to desperate remedies to effect that object. It is in this manner that bold practitioners have acted who have effected those very considerable improvements which posterity has sanctioned and confirmed.

## NAMES OF CHEMICALS, AND PHYSICIANS' PRESCRIPTIONS.

Changing the names of chemicals has proved destructive to the lives of many infants as well as of some adults. Our pharmaceutical apparatus should not have been subjected to such mutation. Progressive chemical philosophy might have advanced in the same ratio, without these innovations, which have involved consequences not probably originally contemplated. During my medical career, several articles have possessed four distinct names, and to the present day I am sometimes obliged to refer to the congregated wisdom of the "gilt pill in Warwick-lane," for a satisfactory solution, lest some injury should befall a fellow creature. Many a tyro has rubbed in a mortar a piece of Camphor with Tinct. Opii., thus obtaining, as the stripling thought, Tinct. Opii. Camphor, and which, if given to a young child, will infallibly dispatch it from our world. The syllables *sub* and *ox* may surely be inscribed with ease, but I have seen the former omitted by celebrated stars in their prescriptions. I had to remonstrate with a young physician, (though of sound head and sober heart,) who wrote  $\bar{3}$  for 3. I felt satisfied that he intended the latter and not the former, and acted accordingly. I mentioned it on the following day; and, as he seemed to feel somewhat sceptical of the truth of the statement, I

put the recipe before him, when he erased the error with such a hasty dash of the pen, as to obliterate the neighbouring words; offering, at the same time, suitable and sufficient apologies.

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## GENERAL DEBILITY,

Miss —, of Cheapside, ætatis 44, requested my opinion whilst labouring under constant inappetency, periodical head-ache, feeble pulse, catamenia regular in quantity, but in colour somewhat darker than usual. She had so long and patiently borne her distressing symptoms, as almost to induce despondency. I considered, however, that it might be worth trying the effect of some of our Chalybeates. She took conjointly the Sulphat and Carbonate of Iron; the first dose afforded such relief, that (to use her own expression) “it instantly reached the cause.” A progressive amendment of the symptoms became manifest to all the harmonious circle: she called on me recently, exceedingly improved in her general appearance, to know whether she should lay any restraint upon herself as to food, her appetite being now so keen, that she feared she should “eat to excess.” Added to the other improved circumstances of the case, flatulency, which used to distress the delicate subject, no longer annoys her. There is no visible amendment in the appearance of the catamenia, which however, are never accompanied with pain.

## THE DEAF AND DUMB.

A post mortem examination has recently taken place of a deaf and dumb subject, æt. 40, in which was exhibited to view the auditory nerves, (the source of all the calamity) extremely minute : the reporter says, unprecedentedly so, the eustachian tube impervious, and all the delicate cavities in the concha, &c., filled with a sebaceous secretion, perfectly incapable of transmitting sound of any kind, and precluding the possibility of hearing altogether.

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 DEAFNESS, AND PAIN IN THE EAR.

As far as my experience extends, deafness principally arises from the inspissated secretion, improperly termed *wax*. Nature defends the delicate tympanum by a bitter secretion, which serves as an adequate protection against the obtrusion of insects, to which millions of the human race in different parts of the globe must otherwise be subject. Comparative deafness may result from its con-creted presence, but almost any aqueous fluid will dissolve it ; and, the cause being removed, the effect will cease. If deafness arise from an affection of the inner meatus, I send the party to the aurist, but I would take the liberty of cautioning those who exercise their mental faculties on one organ to the



neglect of others, (thereby amassing vast stores of information upon certain disorders,) not to perforate the tympanum, and afterwards cauterize it to preserve the artificial orifice pervious, as I have known that process attended with unexpected sphacelus, and death. Children subject to pain in the ear frequently obtain relief merely by external warmth, which the anxious mother can furnish independent of medical aid. I have long deplored the inefficiency of our remedial resources in disorders of the ear, but have very recently obtained some drops, which, upon the first application, are said to increase the uneasiness, but subsequently afford permanent relief. The compound is an Essential Oleaginous Tincture of a dark character; but what degree of confidence is to be reposed in it, I have yet to learn. Perhaps equal parts of Laudanum and Oil of Almonds will be found serviceable; as, in the present dearth of information, we grasp at every practicable proposal, and are happy to avail ourselves of any favourable suggestion.

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## DIGESTION.

The process of digestion is a subject of such importance to the human race, that it has long been a matter of surprise with me, that some correct knowledge of its daily action should not

form an essential part of our educational rudiments. The clouds of gross ignorance are, however, passing away, and one may hope, to return no more. Is not our health and comfort closely connected and interwoven with the gradations, whether difficult or facile, by which nature performs her work? Ought we then to remain in ignorance? What a host of stultified opinions appended to this subject do the multitude swallow as truth! Let us at least liberate ourselves from these absurd trammels, by an enlarged acquaintance with the capabilities of the human stomach. Nature, it is true, on most subjects, is generally competent for all the intimations necessary, as far as relates to general health; but whilst our reliance is blindly implicit, we preclude the possibility of improvement. There is, I think, no doubt that a thorough knowledge of the principles of digestion would enable us to prevent many diseases; and the moralists say, "To prevent is better than to cure."

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## DRY NURSING

Is constructively rearing the infant for premature interment. Those stults, who obstinately persist in opposing nature's salutary indications, are justly chastised by the infant's rebuking cries for the breast, and by its instantaneous loathing and rejection of unnatural sustenance. However close

the imitation, satisfaction is not afforded in allaying the pains of hunger, unless the fluid flows through the lacteal vessels. Erroneous and inhuman perseverance generates the watery gripes, curable only by a good breast, (and without catamenia,) which, if withheld, the infant dies! I never accept the overtures of a wet nurse, without sufficient provision being made for the deserted infant, by the healthiness of the hired breast. Poor innocent illegitimates are soon disposed of by dry nursing. It is a monstrous error among aged females, that the monthly catamenia renews the milk. My opinion is most decidedly that the milk is thus impoverished, and the sucking infant is sure to be uneasy and disordered in the bowels in consequence.

I attended Mrs. C——, of Arundel-street, who had just arrived from Portugal. The infant was vigorous; the breasts prodigiously swollen with milk; but, on my second visit, I learned the child was to be brought up by hand, “Absurd,” I exclaimed, “we are wiser in this country; if this infant be dry-nursed, I assure you it will be brought up for the grave.” The reply was, “That lady, sitting there, was brought up by the hand.” Thus the dispute terminated for the day. At each succeeding visit, I lifted up my voice against the unnatural and cruel proceeding, referring the parties to the anxious countenance and bitter cries of the infant, with the difficulty of disposing of the



milk. The mother but just escaped milk abscesses in both breasts by friction, suspension, and purgatives. Nature's inefficient struggles at length yielded to incurable watery gripes, and the child died. I afterwards learned, that the leading and predominant motive of the cruelty, was an invincible passion for the theatre and oratorio.

After the death of the infant, the parents were as violent in their grief and self-accusation, as they were before on the nonsensical perverseness about dry nursing. Does not the Book of Infallibility say, "as new-born babes desire milk?"

I have long attended a family in Finsbury, where the eldest daughter was reared up by hand; the unwise mother refusing to submit to the offices of a wet nurse. This young lady is one of the few whom I have known to escape the watery gripes and premature death; but although the degree of care and attention necessarily exercised on her behalf has been extreme and long continued, there has been a menaced deformity in the spine, which has cost all parties much solicitude, and which I have always referred to the deficiency of support for the infantile stamina. By dint of rest and local vesication, it is fortunately at length completely overcome, so that she may sit in association with the Portuguese lady. The parents have had eight children since; and, all enjoying the advantages of lactation, according to the scholastic rules, viz. as many months as in the womb, are



healthful proofs of the wisdom of following nature's undeviating dictates.

Fashion is very well, if restricted to its proper province, for the benefit of trade; but woe to the individual who presumes to improve the shape of his skull, or to regulate the beat of his pulse.

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#### EPILEPSY.

This disease exhibited itself in Protei-form and distressing symptoms in two children of Mrs. T——, and shortly afterwards the third, and was, apparently, not attributable to mental irritation, or worms, but generating spontaneously, and exhibiting, at intervals, paroxysms most painful to the feelings of the parents; partaking at one time of idiotcy, at another of furor; occasionally and absolutely suspended for a time, but returning with augmented violence. Sickness suspended the paroxysm; the health and digestive faculties remained unimpaired; but brisk purgatives made no impression on the symptoms; anodynes, gradually increasing their strength, were compelled to be resorted to, I felt an insuperable objection to the introduction of Nitrate of Silver, and confided, as the best substitute, in the Tinct. Colchici, taken with brandy and water made pretty strong, but the disease appeared to set at defiance every remedy. I now made my appeal to several prac-

tioners how to act, (having first begun the trial of the Carbonate of Iron.) The number met in council were twenty, more or less; after hearing my statement, they inquired, on what account I objected to the use of *Argentum Nitratum*. "Simply," said I, "on the ground of tinging the *rete mucosum* with an indigo blue, and that permanently for life." A venerable M.D., who has practised more than fifty years in the metropolis, justified the objection; Dr. M—— B—— considered it the only remedy he could place confidence in; and thus I was reminded of Mr. Jay's comment upon the sentence, "In the multitude of counsellors there is safety," who adds "sometimes perplexity."

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Upon the successful introduction of mercurial friction, which completely arrested epileptic paroxysms, there appeared a degree of maniacal influence, to account for the rise of which we are utterly at a loss. The *Succus Glecomæ Hederaceæ* appears to make some impression; the diseased party sleeps well, and my chief reliance is upon the development of puberty; the present age of the patient being about twelve and a half. After a few weeks' persevering trial of the expressed juice, suspending the important auxiliary of *Unguent Tart. Antimon. Nuchæ Cervicis*, the mental disease, which had excited such uncommon anxiety, gradually receded.

The family of three children rescued so suddenly by the use of the Carbonate of Iron relapsed, as might be expected, under so untractable a malady. Our only resource now, was to set up an action of ptyalism; which, as soon as it was accomplished, gradually subdued all epileptic symptoms, and finally overcame them, leaving for a while a petulent incoherency.

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## PAINFUL AND UNHEALTHY ERUPTIONS

Spontaneously appeared in the person of Miss W——, ætatis 9, on the skin under the glutæi muscles, attended with puckered appearance, and tender to the touch. Her elder sisters had exhibited catamenia early, (a phenomenon peculiar to the present aspiring age,) and I contented myself with the use of leeches, fomentations, and poultices alternately, during the space of three months, with mild aperients, but no very flattering results followed. The orifices made by leeching remained open, exuding a sanious excoriating ichor, received in the mass of poultice. Her health, however, continued unimpaired; and patience and perseverance were prescribed in waiting for nature's salutary indication.

## A BLOW ON THE EYE.

The sudden ejection of the cork out of a soda bottle, against the eye of an amiable young man, brought on instant and extensive effusion of blood from the delicate organ. Leeching, with perseverance, restored the injured part to its full and perfect tone; but about five years since, he was induced by a remarkable eclipse of the sun, to examine the phenomenon too minutely with the naked eye. To the present day the vision is obscured by the lucid crescent on every attempt to discern with more than ordinary correctness. Added to which, there is an undefined deformity, perceptible upon minute inspection. I charged him to take heed, by avoiding artificial light, and small print, and to use the eye-bath twice a day.

Persons gazing at summer lightning too long have injured the retina so much, as to be attended with consequences more or less alarming.

Blows on the ears, inflicted by intemperate school-masters, I have known entail on the suffering party deafness for life.

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DUST IN THE EYE.

Dust may generally be removed from the eye, (as I assure all my patients) by their own hands, during the early period of the obtrusion of the ex-



traneous body (be it rural or metropolitan) *muscæ volitantes*, or the nib of a pen. Nature, with her sympathising resources, instantly takes alarm, by generating a redundancy of tears, and if the upper lid (where the mischievous atom generally lies concealed) be elevated and drawn down over the lash of the under lid, the evil is instantly removed. Should it have made further advances towards the duplicature, we must be indebted to the hands of another operator; no matter whether the relieving party be a medical practitioner or not, by a minute piece of paper rolled tight to a point, and fairly inspecting the situation of the obtruder, you may bear him away in triumph. The irritating matter must be removed, or serious inflammation may ensue.

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## WEAK EYES

Are ill adapted to endure privation of sleep. About 25 years since, I was occupied, as an accoucheur, in attending two or three females per diem; the necessary exposure to artificial light, and the uncertainty of natural rest, subjected me to a weakness of the eyes, and many similarly circumstanced have irrecoverably lost their sight. I found relief only from leeches and blistering the external canthus. The cause, however, recurring so repeatedly, and, disqualifying me for many parts of my profession, I was obliged to abridge my obstetric

praetice. I found relief by the application of cold water; which I suffered to come into contact with the cornea, by opening the eyes during immersion in a basin of water, and having found at that time so much relief from the practice, I have continued it daily for more than twenty years, without having been compelled to adopt any other method whatsoever.

Visiting Norwich shortly after I had adopted my system of immersion, I met Dr. Rigby, who facetiously attacked me with "What Edward, my name-sake, you look quite like a London doctor, (from being dressed in black I presume,) I suppose you have plenty of midwifery business." "No," I observed, "I am endeavouring to relinquish it, as my health suffers." "Poh, it never hurt me." "No, but I am not like Goliath the Gittite." The gigantic accoucheur smiled, and we separated.

I believe that the most successful oculists repose implicit confidence in the use of T. Opii and Unguent. Citrini; these however, are included in my best resources.

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#### A USEFUL FEBRIFUGE

Was recently found in the compound of Antimonial powder and Calomel. One of my good ladies, who never will be without this febrile antidote, (like many scores beside,) had a neighbour whose child was labouring under fever, which refused to yield

to the use of the means employed by *their* medical confidant, and who was, in consequence, about to call in further assistance, when Mrs. B——, my patient, suggested, as a preliminary measure, a dose of *her* powder. The new medicine operated so well, that the encouraged parties requested a second dose, under which the symptoms yielded with such facility, as to require no additional medicine. Strongly attached as I am to my occupation, I have often said, that should any imperative law deprive me of the use of my favourite febrifuge, I would instantly abandon it.

In the present successful instance it is but candid to concede, that the medical world generally may not attach such importance to this febrifuge as the persons most deeply interested; it being very probable, that former proceedings, in the case alluded to, paved the way for the sudden convalescence which supervened.

It has been to me a matter of surprise and deep regret for many years past, that the compound of Pulv. Antimon. and Hydrarg. Subinur. should excite so little attention. In many scores of instances I have been delighted to witness its salutary operation in checking, nay, in extinguishing fever altogether, sometimes even with a single dose. Indeed I have no hesitation in saying that it will generally, in the incipient stage, act as effectually, though not so suddenly, as a bucket of water upon the ignited fuel you may be intent on

extinguishing. I furnish the principal part of the families who honour me with their preference, especially those in which there are children, with this compound for use on every occurrence of febrile paroxysm, by night or by day. The parties are sure to do right, whether it be the result of ordinary indigestion, measles, typhus, inflammatory or brain fever; and with the super-added advantage of "taking the bull by the horns," for it is too obvious, that when fever has obtained an ascendancy, it often requires proportioned, yea immense, pains and patience to dislodge the enemy, and surrounding parties are too often in the habit of delaying to call in the medical confidant whereby much valuable time is frittered away and the unfortunate subject prematurely sinks beyond the power of restoration.

The only disadvantage which can, I conceive, result from the general use of the excellent febrifuge by all families, is, that too implicit reliance may be placed upon the valuable compound in cases where general and local depletion may be a necessary associate, if not an indispensable preliminary. Instances of this kind are cognisable by the bounding character of the pulse, and by the sensible inertness of the medicine; of which the parties interested will quickly be competent judges.



## FEVER.

Ardent fever, whether general or local, requires the greatest promptitude from all parties. Its subjugation is best accomplished by venesection conjoined with the establishment of mercurial ptyalism, which, when effected, precludes the necessity of drawing off more of the vital fluid. For want of observing these rules, it is to be feared, that, some of our rheumatic patients have obtained their disqualification for many of the purposes of life, and are rendered too correct barometrical indicators of the approaching weather. In some pneumonic cases, where bleeding was the sole reliance, subjects have perished who might have been rescued under a process of ptyalism, and some typhoid cases have degenerated into phthisis and fatal emaciation, under an undue confidence in the effect of the lancet, when a happier issue might have followed, by moderation in the use of the one, and speedy ptyalism by application of the other. In peritonitis, where the lancet is admissible, if we can but succeed in setting up ptyalism, the distressing and menacing symptoms instantly disappear. In iritis also, we shall sometimes witness the happiest effects from the combined use of the lancet and Mercury, whilst without the latter the eye may perish under undue inflammation, from which the lancet cannot always relieve. It may

possibly be found, that even in our grand operations, there may be less danger resulting from them under such a mode of combination.

If some rigid theorists demand the *modus operandi* before they will act, I should send them to the facetious lecturer, Dr. Saunders, who used to explain it thus—"The patient is assailed by one enemy, science challenges him by introducing another foe, namely, Mercury; these two combatants fight, and when both are exhausted, the terrified patient effects his escape."

Typhus, in tropical climates, at the close of the depletory plan, will often require the internal use of ardent spirits, to lead to the favourable conclusion; and in our own country, at the period of collapse, which should be vigilantly regarded, convalescence will be promoted by suitable stimulants cautiously entered upon, and, increased according to the menacing circumstances of the case, and the effect of the supporting plan upon the patients.

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#### A CASE OF FEVER.

Miss Mary K——, ætatis 18, the daughter of a respectable coal merchant, from exposure to cold, experienced an alarming attack of fever, in which the lungs were particularly affected. The Carbonate of Potassæ and Citric Acid constituted the chief of our remedial resources: On the decline of

the pneumonic fever there was a gradual development of the hectic, so common in this country; for the relief of which, it is no secret, that we possess no antidote on which we can place any sober reliance while the party continues to inhale metropolitan atmosphere:—as usual, I therefore lifted up my protest against the patient remaining at home. I had too often seen, that “delays are dangerous,” and perverse unbelief much more so. The anxious maternal parent accompanied my interesting patient (whom I brought into the world) out of town. Being supported alone by cold milk, (the only nutriment we admitted,) without medicine, she soon lost the evening flushing, morning perspiration, and celerity of pulse; and after a few weeks, she returned “*mens sana in corpore sano*,” for during the febrile and convalescent process, it pleased God to sanctify the visitation, inasmuch that she is now made “wise unto salvation,” enjoying Christian fellowship with her eldest sister Ann, who was “in Christ before her,” to the unspeakable satisfaction of both their honoured parents.

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Fevers cured without medicine are as innumerable as the stars in the firmament. Nature’s ordinary indications are so ample and salutary that very few addenda are ordinarily requisite. She excites a thirst which is best quenched with cold water; she loathes all nutriment to an indefinite

period, I have known the absence of appetite continue six weeks without cessation, and the party yet do well. But the culinary art, the fears and clamour about debility, and the irresistible persuasion of the weaker vessels, operate so effectually as to render necessary the introduction of emetics, (which are not to be excluded from amongst our febrifuges, but classed with those of prime importance,) exhausting the powers still more, and postponing the approach of convalescence.

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FEVER, WITH MENACING PHTHISIS.

A Youth, ætatis 18, labouring under general internal thoracic and abdominal pains, with a contracted chest, and pulse 120, applied for my advice. "Are you of a consumptive family?" "Yes, Sir," he replied, "on my mother's side; she died of a deep decline." I gave him Pulv. Antimon. ʒss, and Hydrarg. Submur. ʒj, to be taken at bed-time; and requested he would call at noon the following day. He called accordingly, manifestly improved, and stated that the medicine had kept up a prodigious perspiration in the night, and procured him two motions, though not without pain. He could now breathe deeper, and with less pain than on the preceding day; his pulse was also reduced to 92. I repeated the dose, expecting to see him rally



without any further medical interference, in which I was not disappointed.

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CASE OF FEVER WHICH SMELLS OF THE SHOP.

Having occasion to pay a condoling visit to an afflicted mother, who had been bereaved of her daughter, ætatis 19, by phthisis, it was natural that my inquiries should be directed to the treatment in the incipient stage of the disease, which had terminated so fatally. "We sent, Sir," said the distressed parent, "for our neighbour, Mr. —, who said it was a nervous fever; and, unless she took a great quantity of medicine, she would be ill during the whole winter. Liberal portions were accordingly supplied, day by day, the colour of the preparation being changed every third day, till my daughter appeared wearied out by celerity of pulse, evening flushings, morning perspirations, constant and alarming emaciation of muscular fibre. All parties seemed to think that additional advice was expedient; but the patient was too far gone for any benefit to be effected, and in a few succeeding weeks she expired."

I felt exceedingly hurt at such a statement, although I stifled my feelings at the moment. Shortly recovering myself, however, I spoke out my mind, as I did not much fear the extent of the evil impression likely to be made, considering the

medical practitioner as a mere novice in his profession, and a greater proficient in dancing and dandyism than ever he was in dissection.

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#### THE FEMALE BREAST.

While going through my noviciate in the profession, I have seen painful knots in the female breast removed by the surgeon's knife, under the idea of preventing the formation of cancers; though, in subsequent periods of my medical experience, I have dispersed similar knots by the internal use of the Flor. Ammoniac, which was the favourite remedy of my venerable master, Mr. Cline, superadding leeching and Unguent. Tartr. Antimon. Indeed, the cases which I have successfully treated in this manner are too numerous to recite.

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#### CRITICAL PERIOD WITH ADVANCED FEMALES.

This is a subject of more importance than we are led to suppose, while sitting at the feet of wise and great professors in the healing art. Should the female happen to be of a feeble temperament, in whom the pulse is generally below par, nature's resources are not called into action, and no evil results are to be anticipated; but, on the contrary, if a firm and vigorous pulse prevail on the cessa-

tion of the periodical menses, which will probably occur suddenly, without extreme and persevering care, the incautious party may experience a host of eccentric symptoms, nervous or cuticular, throughout the residue of her mortal pilgrimage ; from which dilemma nature possesses no adequate means for rescuing the sufferer.

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I recently called on Mrs. W——, of Finsbury, ætatis 55, whom I found with a full pulse, labouring under many anomalous symptoms, characterised by the large latitude of rheumatic gout and nervous debility, or rather disqualification, (“convenient phrases,” as Dr. Saunders used smilingly to say, “to conceal our ignorance,”) superadded to swollen and painful fingers, thickly studded with eruptions, from which issued a semi-transparent excoriating ichor. I suspected the latent cause, and told her she had neglected her bowels in particular, and herself in general, at that very important period. Mrs. W. made no hesitation whatever to confess that she had done so ; having, at that time, thought it very probable, as she had had but one child, from the cessation of the catamenia, which was sudden, that she might be again pregnant. She is a victim to a host of distressing complaints, and is only fit to be waited upon. She is “a keeper at home,” through necessity ; but the confinement is submitted to with such sweet content and pious

resignation, that I esteem it a privilege to enjoy her confidence, and never quit the happy dwelling without pleasing emotions as to the value of "the woman who hid the leaven in three measures of meal till the whole was leavened," which appears literally to be the case in the delightful abode of my patient. "Her husband also he calls her blessed," on his return from the India House. I could not be very sanguine as to relief under the circumstances of the present case. The tepid bath and mild aperients tranquillized; a vegetable diet, and total abstinence from spirituous liquors, constituted the principal of my remedial resources, with what success I have yet to learn.

It is a satisfaction, in this instance, that the head is perfectly free from metastasis. I believe many, through neglect, have imposed upon themselves and friends disqualifying hysteria, head-ache, and, not a few, mental aberration; all of which might have been avoided under due management and discipline.

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#### FLUOR ALBUS.

The whites or weakness, attended by lumbar pains and a sense of debility of a most peculiar character, to which females are subjected, is a diseased secretion of the neck of the womb, and very annoying both to the practitioner and the patient. The modes of relief and cure are multiform. Dr.



Saunders records, in his lectures on this perplexing malady, that a lady of quality consulted him, after she had in vain tried an immense variety of applications, both internal and external, for whom he prescribed the simple external application of a strong infusion of green tea, with a sponge employed several times a day. The relief afforded was so decisive and permanent, that she recompensed him in a "princely manner." Since that period I have had occasion to recommend it; and, as far as I know, with uniform advantage, although I have not always attached so much importance to the identical infusion as to the purifying and tonic power of the application; and with this view I have often preferred the use of the hip-bath twice a-day, taking special care to produce a glowing reaction by friction with dry cloths.

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## FISTULA IN ANO.

A Gentleman swallowed a fish-bone, which afterwards travelled through the whole alimentary canal, notwithstanding its peristaltic windings, until it arrived at the rectum, where, upon a powerful action made during the expulsion of the fæces, a sense of pricking was cognisable, as if by a needle. Subsequent uneasiness about the part began to annoy the subject, and finally, by a small abscess, the fish-bone actually protruded

itself undissolved at the usual position, near the exit, serving as an occasion to the formation of fistula, for the cure of which he was indebted to one stroke from the bistoury.

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## FLATULENCY

Is, in a certain degree, a proof of the salutary action of the peristaltic intestines, and is esteemed a matter of congratulation by some northern luminaries ; but, as far as my observation extends, it is a self-procured evil. Animal food, particularly with young persons, when not sufficiently masticated, necessarily passes from the stomach into the duodenum prematurely, subjecting the party to a needless labour, and ultimately engendering painful flatulency. The aged unwisely have recourse to ardent spirits, because, forsooth, they help digestion; but if my opinion is requested on the subject, I say, “ My friend, grinding your food properly, or even dividing it well with a knife, would be a far better digester, and would supersede the necessity of destructive habits; which beside add the inconvenience of flatulency. With young females flatulency is sometimes the result of hysteria, but most commonly, I believe, of indigestion, and does not require medical interference to remove it, which may sometimes be effected by retaining the breath for awhile; deliberately taking food, and particularly animal food, will alone, however, permanently relieve.

## ŒDEMATOUS FOOT.

Mrs. D——, accompanied by her daughter, paid a visit to a friend of mine a few miles out of town. The mother, æt. 55, and of a very leucophlegmatic temperature, sprained an ankle during the visit; and, one month succeeding another apparently interminably, putting into constant requisition the male and female servants, by the daily use of embrocations, fomentations and poultices, without any advantage, at length the liberal host called upon me, stating the grievance of the visitation, not on the score of expense, but the derangement of domestic order and comfort, and saying if there were any surgical interference which could relieve the family (in a perfectly honourable way) he should be happy. Reverend Sir, I can sympathise with you; I know what it is to be annoyed by torpid visitants, who occupy a snug retreat. Upon seeing Mrs. D—— with her swollen foot and ankle, on the removal of the reeking poultice, with a pallid skin, I said, “Ma’am, you may coddle up this limb till Christmas, and be no nearer ease or activity. I advise the instantaneous use of a roller.” Oh! she could not bear it. “Give me leave to make the attempt.” I commenced as usual, as near the toe as possible, binding it tolerably tight, advancing and adjusting the circular bandage by turns and foldings as Mr.

Cline used to direct his pupils. Before the process was completed, she expressed herself sensible of great relief. The attendant vigilant parties were put in full possession of the means of cure so completely that my services were no longer wanted, and, in a few days, the mother and daughter commenced their journey to their native residence in Lancashire.

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HEAD-ACHE RELIEVED BY EVAPORATION.

Where there is high arterial action *sine febre*, or a state of mental irritation, it is at times inconceivable what sensible, instantaneous, and permanent relief is afforded by moistening the whole scalp with any spirit. Mrs. L——, residing North of Cheapside, (a highly nervous subject) the principal of a large establishment, and necessarily exposed to a variety of irritating circumstances, by the torpor of dronish hirelings, (herself as quick and brilliant as the planet Mercury), is constantly in the habit of moistening the shaven scalp with common brandy, under the apprehension of a sleepless night. The effect has been a visible exhalation from the head, and sleep has been perfectly undisturbed, and without dreaming.

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Miss S——, residing South of Cheapside, whom I visited whilst lying on a sofa, labouring under



intense head-ache, but *sine febre*, and whose pulse I found so full that I feared nothing but the lancet would relieve her ; the patient's age, however, 13, rendered me somewhat cautious of employing it as a remedy. Reserving it, therefore, I commenced by sopping the hairy scalp with spirit. While I was thus employed, she fell asleep, the pulse diminished in fulness, and all thoughts of recourse to the lancet ceased. She was watched so that nothing could disturb her, and after a sleep of three hours, she awoke perfectly free from pain, which returned no more. However trivial the principle and application may appear in the eyes of some, I have often conversed with a physician of long and extensive practice, who, under ordinary fever, is generally in the habit of making use of it, and reports that it lessens the severity of febrile symptoms, and contributes not a little to the advance of convalescence. As far as my experience extends, I can fully corroborate this important testimony.

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## HEAD-ACHE.

Breathing the air of a crowded coach cost a gentleman of my acquaintance a head-ache, from the moment he entered the phlogistic region. Since lectures on natural philosophy have become so frequent and well attended, it was to be hoped that our plodding cits themselves by this time know, (what many of us knew forty years

ago) that each adult consumes by respiration one gallon of atmospheric air per minute, and that less than this is unsuited for the purposes of supporting life free from interruption. In the journey of life we must make sacrifices from day to day; and the want of an accommodating spirit prompts the hasty applicant to jostle out his neighbour, when he comes reeking hot to the bank or banker's with his cheque for honourable payment. I have known a gentleman hastily pull up the window of a stage coach, without consulting his fellow-travellers, who were of equal worth with himself, and his opposite neighbour pull it down full as rudely; and this silent altercation or hostility (very amusing to the rest of the party) continue until the asthmatic irritant broke silence by exclaiming hastily, "Sir, I cannot bear the window up: I shall die for want of air;" and the other as hastily replying, "Sir, I cannot bear the window down, owing to the rheumatic pain in my shoulders."

My facetious friend, Simpson, solicitor, of Norwich, was so beset by feminine and squeamish inmates in the Mail, that he was compelled to thrust his elbow through the window, as if by accident, when he could sleep with an adequate current of air.

"The kindest and the happiest pair  
Will find occasion to forbear;  
And something, ev'ry day they live,  
To pity, and, perhaps, forgive."—COWPER.

## HEMOPTYSIS.

Mrs. W——, of Walworth, while in the act of coughing, broke a blood vessel, and though she was a delicate subject, with a view of checking the tendency, (according to the practice of thirty and forty years' date,) was let blood by the lancet, and the operation repeated on three different occasions. A gradual emaciation and hectic pulse were soon developed, and the lady is now in the last stage of phthisis pulmonalis.

*Experientia docet*, "by little and little" we discover our errors, and attain to more mature and correct judgment. When will this disputed subject be for ever set at rest? Are we compelled to abide by the reasonings of the old schools or the new, while appalling facts multiply upon us so frequently and destructively. I feel, however, confident that I have no sin of this description to answer for.

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Hemoptysis of an arterial character occurred during the summer, on a violent fit of laughter, after breakfast, in the person of Mrs. S——, a delicate lady under lactation. The lancet appeared the *sine quâ non* in the judgment of the practitioner. Unusual debility supervened; notwithstanding which lactation was protracted to the unwise

and extraordinary term of thirteen months, when the patient became pthysical, with evening chills and flushings, morning perspirations, muscular and general emaciation, shortness of breathing, palpitation, and the pulse 126. The maternal parent accounts for the celerity of the pulse by a suggestion, that she is extremely nervous. "That, my good lady, is quite another point. The pulse is the legitimate barometer to the medical man; no state of nervous irritation can support a pulse of this description. I do not regard the degree of improvement you say she has enjoyed. I am unable of course to draw the comparison, but I have no hesitation in saying, that the lungs are the organs under disease, but as the expectoration is perfectly tasteless, (being neither saline nor saccharine,) I argue that, with extreme care and patient perseverance, recovery is possible." Under these inauspicious circumstances, I first saw the delicate subject. I unhesitatingly protested against the general plan of treatment, and urged the speedy removal of the diseased party from out of the phlogisticated atmosphere of London. The organs implicated being the lungs, every inhalation tended to add to the distress and danger of the patient, for the relief of whom, our best remedial resources we knew to be utterly inefficient, as the artillery must be planted in direct opposition to the enemy, if we mean to succeed in our attack on him, "To-morrow," said I, "let the



patient be put into a coach, and spend the whole day two miles out of town, and return before sunset. I shall expect to see a reduction of twelve beats in the minute, and a consciousness in the patient of the possession of sensible tone and strength, which all our tonics in their full amplitude, are utterly incapable of giving. Dr. Air, (not Eyre,) will be the best and only physician I shall recommend."

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#### THE EXTERNAL USE OF HARTSHORN.

Hartshorn, though mostly deprived of its beneficial properties by its incorporation with oil, is, upon the principle of revulsion, capable of extensive utility, when literally had recourse to as a rubefacient. In ordinary cynanche, sore throat, rigidity of the muscles, incipient rheumatic pain, and, in short, in many cases where a blister would cure, the use of Hartshorn will often supersede its necessity, without subjecting the party to the distress and tediousness, the result of the application of the *Lyttæ*, the grateful Ferdinand's fly.

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#### HEPATITIS.

Mrs. M——, ætatis 52, of Thames-street, was attacked with severe hepatic local pain, general fever, and fulness of pulse, for the relief of which

I bled her copiously, (probably to ʒxx at one operation,) which proved competent to every purpose; no further measures being necessary than a steady attention to the bowels. The summary proceeding, however, did not please the lady, who thought I had gone to excess in the use of the lancet. I replied to her suggestions by adverting to the character of the blood, as fully justifying the depletory measure; but as I failed in producing a favourable impression upon her mind, I called no more. About two years afterwards, the hepatic symptoms returned, (probably having been promoted by the good things of this life) ushered in by rigor, local pains, feverish heat, and sympathetic uneasiness upon the shoulder, cervix, &c., with scanty and highly-coloured urine, accompanied by sickness. Leeches were once used by her medical confidant, who afterwards proposed a blister, to the application of which, however, she would not consent. As he thought bleeding was not advisable, the lancet was not made use of, and she died on the ninth day from the attack.

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## HEMIPLEGIA.

This is an affection of a most insidious character: at one time every premonitory symptom is so clearly developed, as to allow the practitioner to apply suitable and successful provision, and thus

fairly meet the formidable adversary by our boasted artillery, finally triumphing over a deadly enemy. On the other hand, the previous intimation of such a latent foe, probably concealed about the basis of the brain, on the cervical spinal marrow sheath, or elsewhere, will be given by an occasional or permanent tingling at the extremity of one or more of the fingers, depriving the unsuspecting party of the usual share of sensibility in the accurate tact of a touch, which, if unheeded, may eventually be as destructive and unexpected as is the Typhone wind to our Indian shipping in the Chinese sea. How many valuable lives are trifled away at the period of 60, in the male subject, where nature has provided no salutary evacuation, for want of the bold administration of the lancet, and the steady perseverance of habitual temperance. My mind's eye is at this time fixed upon many a useful individual, patiently submitting to healthful laws and moral restraint, enjoying full and uninterrupted health, who formerly bore the aspect and reality of constant jeopardy. It is true there are some hemiplegic cases in which the lancet cannot be considered the appropriate remedy; but then we have cupping, leeches, &c. In some rare instances, I have reposed confidence in electricity—the electric fluid appearing, on certain occasions, to be the inexplicable pabulum for a decayed state of nervous efficiency.

In the autumn of 1803, I subjected Mr. S——,

an engineer of considerable eminence, to this process, which so well succeeded as quickly to relieve him of every disqualifying hemiplegic symptom, and he has enjoyed uninterrupted health to the present period.

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A HYDROPHOBIC CASE.

Mr ———, was bitten by a rabid animal, and four months elapsed before the wounded parts exhibited visible intimation that the inoculating tooth had inflicted an injury. The lymphatics furnishing palpable proof, by the existence and direction of red lines conveying pain to the appending muscles. It was at first considered simple rheumatismus; for the relief of which brandy and water being offered, by the sudden refusal of which, and his incapacity to swallow, the idea was confirmed of the existence of the dreadful disease, which destroyed him on the following day.

“Procrastination is the thief of time” is an axiom which most school boys insert in their copy-books; but when, I would ask, will the practical effect of the motto become general? I shall feel confident in the repose resulting from the use of a penetrating escharotic, to extinguish the latent poison, until I have ocular demonstration of its inertness by failure. If my view possess chemical correctness, the simple application of the concentrated Sulphuric Acid would have prevented the



fatal termination from the bite of an adder, which recently took place in the county of Somerset. It is "devoutly to be wished" that the medical practitioner called in had been more explicit as to what remedies he so unsuccessfully employed? We want more candid information upon subjects in which the lives of our fellow-creatures are so deeply and perpetually involved.

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## INJURY OF THE HEAD.

A blow inflicted upon the head of Master ———, by an usher at one of our first-rate academies, produced continued pain, to which disqualifying symptoms supervened of such a character as to render recovery doubtful, and which were ultimately succeeded by an idiotic constitution, thus clouding for ever the scholar's once-brilliant mind. The remorse of the usher engendered ennui, sickness, and death.

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## HYDROTHORAX.

Mary E——, ætatis 31, of Garlick-hill, sent to me one evening very recently, saying that she was dying. This was my first introduction to an intemperate female, unmarried, and without catamenia. She was unable to recline, fearing instant suffocation, and not without obvious reason. The pulse, on account of its celerity, was scarcely to

be counted. I asked her to make an effort to sigh, but she was incapable. The quantity of urine evacuated was not more than a wine-glass full in twenty-four hours, and that resembling brandy in colour. She was closing her hands in a devotional manner, lifting up her eyes, and bitterly bewailing with tears that she had so long neglected God and her soul. My reply was natural and easy, "We are all chargeable with that great guilt until God makes us wise. The earlier the better in every point of view; but our Master hires servants 'at the eleventh hour,' who shall 'in no wise be cast out.' Imitate the example of the woman who said, 'If I may but touch the hem of his garment I shall be made whole.' No diseases were fatal under his hands, while upon earth; and all mental maladies have found relief and cure under his skill and compassion; for he never lost a patient, and he never will, being 'the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.'" She followed up recommendation, and found benefit. I sent her a solution of the Kali Acetatum, hoping to set the pumps to work, and afford her the only chance of recovery. The kidneys acted with unexpected facility. She can now recline and rest, and the renal secretion has become greater in quantity and paler in colour: in short, it appears to be a complete triumph of medicine over what we generally deem an incurable malady. I have just returned from my final visit, having found her walking out of one room into another, enjoying

a good appetite, with a cheerful and florid countenance, a moderated pulse, mechanically relieved from a load of surrounding fluid, which has been evacuated by the customary process.

That despised and useful medicine is occasionally available where there exists a fatal redundancy, generally speaking, of the interstitial fluid. Our diplomatic and dignified dons who, ultra-like, monopolize all information in their pharmacopœia, have almost excluded it. "*Sæpe utilissimum, quod contemnitur.*"

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The Rev. Mr. T——, æt. 45, of Bartlett's Buildings, whom I found labouring under dyspnœa, inability to recline except on one side; the kidneys torpid, urine very scanty, and of a high colour, pulse feeble, frequent and intermittent. I was not, however, fearful of intimidating him by an unfavourable prognosis, being well acquainted with the Christian hope, (himself preaching the Gospel soundly and fluently in French as well as English,) but I rather referred to the uncertainty of medicine, though not desponding, as I had occasionally witnessed beneficial effects, under somewhat similar circumstances by the use of Potassæ Acetas. I commenced with this old-fashioned saline remedy to excite the torpid absorbents into action, the only safe mode of treatment, according to my humble views. The result

was highly gratifying, three doses only were taken before a manifest impression was made upon the renal organs, and as a necessary consequence, relief to the breathing, and capacity to recline on each side. The recovery was not partial, which would probably have been the case with a *bon vivant*, but complete; and eight years have elapsed without any return. I charged him to dilute freely, insisting upon the kidneys being supported in a uniform and moderate action. I have recently shaken hands with this excellent divine, who possesses all the criteria of "*mens sana in corpore sano*."

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BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF SUCCUS GLECOMÆ HEDERACEÆ,  
(GROUND IVY.)

Miss De la P—— married Mr. H——, residing south west of Finsbury. The parties had several children. About eighteen years since, I was desired to see Mrs. H——, labouring under harmless mania. She was walking about her spacious bedroom, attended by a vigilant nurse. From her speaking French fluently, and being a brunette, I considered her a native of France, and I afterwards learned that her parents were French and English. Mr. H—— informed me, that she had long laboured under these periodical nervous paroxysms, (a most convenient phrase,) from un-



known causes, and the first intimation they had, was always exhibited by this predilection for the French language. The maniacal character of the disease was so palpable by the eyes, as to establish it beyond a doubt in my mind. I proceeded forthwith in the use of that despised herb, the impression made by which was quickly recognised by us all, and in ten days, she was perfectly well, and has had no degree of aberration since. She is now a grand mamma, amuses herself by poetic composition, and interests herself usefully in the missionary institutions of the day. I had the pleasure of shaking hands with her recently at church; she is the picture of cheerfulness, and is indelibly impressed with her obligation to the humble Ground-ivy. Care has been taken to avoid the use of the language of her Gallic friends, whose visits are happily interrupted by the sea; and, as far as I can learn, my quondam patient has not uttered a sentiment in that language since the period above referred to.

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## INFANTS SMOTHERED BY OVERLAYING.

Nurses, both foster and maternal, have occasionally had to deplore this distressing occurrence. Under my own roof, during the infancy of fourteen children, our solitudes were intense from the possibility of the event. The business of lactation being performed by proxy, (owing to ma-

ternal incapability,) increased the danger; which was further augmented by the nurse's fondness for ardent spirits, which betrayed itself in two or three instances. The charge, however, was always peremptory, that after taking the breast, the infant should be put out of danger, at a sufficient distance, and this injunction often personally enforced by a watcher; for domestics, though not otherwise destitute of principle, sleep, carelessly exposing the infant to an untimely end by suffocation. "Through the good hand of God," however, we escaped this visitation, but all are not so fortunate. One with which I am acquainted, is a very affecting case. The mother, addicted to liquors, in a state of insensibility rolled upon her sucking infant in bed, and smothered it. The parent, distracted with remorse, became maniacal, and continues so to the present day; her friends having long despaired of all cure.

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ON THE CAPABILITY OF NERVOUS MOTHERS TRANSMITTING  
IMPRESSIONS TO THE INFANT IN THE WOMB.

The funis, the only medium of conveyance, possessing, according to all anatomical laws, no traceable nerve, from whence then, is derived the possibility of communicating, by transfer, any impression to the young immortal? Were we borne out by indisputable facts the mode of reasoning

would be legitimate and satisfactory; but, unfortunately for the pride of "vain man," facts are diametrically opposite:—they present themselves in such force, both as to multitude and character, as to humble us in our opinion, and compelling us to acknowledge, that inscrutable mysteries belong to God.

Mr. ——— residing opposite to Mrs. ———, a lady in the seventh month of her pregnancy, was under the necessity of submitting to the operation of castration. Having, by some injudicious person, been informed of the circumstance, the lady's sympathy was so much awakened, that during the whole time of the stay of the surgeon at the house of her neighbour, she was incapable of remaining quiet, pacing her bed-room for several hours. The surgeon's withdrawment in some degree relieved her, and she was prevailed upon to go down stairs and partake of refreshment. Two months after, the infant was born (a boy,) and with a testicle deficient, in which state he remains to the present day.

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#### PAIN IN THE KNEES OF A UNIQUE CHARACTER.

Mr. H——, ætatis 75, was at the time that he first consulted me as his medical confidant, unmarried, a bon vivant, and occasionally intemperate. I had nothing to do but allay the nauseating fruits of delirium tremens by Infus. Rosarum and the juice of oranges and lemons; and after a process of

ten years with a full pulse and short stature, with the constant danger of an attack of apoplexy, he became temperate, assuring me he had seen his error, and exhibited the best fruits of undeviating punctuallity and salubrious regularity. My visits to his rural retreat now partook more of the friendly than the medical character: the kidneys occasionally betraying a temporary torpor, they were instantly stirred up into due action by slight diuretics; but a sense of gastric fulness after dinner still remained. It was admitted that advancing years would necessarily entail disqualifying intimations, that "this is not our rest." An irregular periodical pain seized both knee joints, occasionally so violent as to deprive him of sleep being no visible cause traceable. Without exertion of mind or body, it makes its unwelcome approach, is not increased by pressure; and by going off as it comes on perplexes us equally. Warmth, pressure, fomentations and leeching, with considerable perseverance, and without advantage, unless it be the latter in some slight and temporary degree. Fearing the application of some measures which would be justifiable, *cæteris paribus*, lest metastasis should visit the stomach, heart, or brain. I was at a loss how to act, and took the opinion of that man of wisdom in the healing art, W. Norris, Esq., who kindly accompanied me, and approved in every iota of that which had hitherto been prescribed,



conceiving that the Blue Pill and Senna Draught might relieve the diseased liver.

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THE BENEFIT OF LEECHING THE TEMPLES  
IN HYDROCEPHALUS.

About seven years ago, I was sent for to see a child, *ætatis* 4, (whom I brought into the world,) labouring under general fever, accompanied with moaning, rolling the head, indistinct vision, and every symptom indicating, according to the common acceptation of the term, incipient water in the brain. The boy was the only child of an affectionate circle, and heir to three independent fortunes. His life being so important, and exposed to such peril, I was unwilling to undertake the task alone, and proposed, on their appeal to me, the aid of Dr. George Rces, whose medical discernment is not, I think, duly appreciated. We used leeches to the temples, not suffering any obstruction to the flow of blood, &c. The case continued doubtful for five days; when, while we were all gazing upon him, unable to determine what prognosis to form, whether favourable or unfavourable, the delicate subject yawned whilst lying in his mother's lap. "Ah!" exclaimed I, "Mrs. L——, your boy will rally." This indication of nature is a proof of her capacious powers for restoration, and convalescence was shortly established.

## SUCCESSFUL LEECHING.

Leeching was adopted in the case of Master B——, ætatis 5, who laboured under ardent fever, attended by quick pulse, cough, extreme pain about the pit of the stomach, and rapid emaciation of the whole body. As there existed a phthysical tendency on the paternal side, alarm was justly excited. The pulse in both radial arteries was too full, but in the left most so; which led me to conjecture that the boy was left-handed; which opinion, on inquiry, I found was correct. Three leeches were instantly applied to the painful region; and the orifices made by them allowed to ooze throughout the following night. On the discharge of blood ceasing, a large blister was added, which it was deemed expedient to remove at the expiration of six hours, lest sphacelus should supervene. The measures resorted to had so good an effect, that at the close of the day my patient was urgent for food. As we could not readily get down medicine, we did not think it right to tease him with it, so that we were wholly indebted to the hirudines and vesication.

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LEECHING TO EXCESS.

Miss S——, ætatis 10, at my suggestion, employed leeches in a stubborn eruption, with con-

siderable perseverance, and, relief following, we were all satisfied of the propriety of the course recommended. At length, however, an œdematous swelling arrested the lower limbs, quickly traversing upward till the face partook of œdema. The kidneys seemed synchronously to fail in their usual action, but nature had excited a salubrious thirst, and I was happy to indulge the little patient in liquids: the external application of Ol. Terebinth. forming the whole of our remedial resources.

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## LEECHING IN PNEUMONIA.

Miss —, ætatis 19, contracted a severe cold, and pneumatic symptoms were quickly developed. The lancet and cupping the sternum relieved, nay, completely rescued her. A relapse was brought on by an imprudent exposure to a north-easterly wind; and my services being required a second time, I again suggested cupping. Oh! she had rather endure any thing than be cupped; conceding, therefore, in some degree, I substituted the use of six leeches along the course of the chest-bone. The evacuation was so profuse as to pour forth, during the course of ten hours, lb jss. The female report may not perhaps be correct; but the relief afforded was more complete and satisfactory than could reasonably have been expected from cupping. I presume the superficial vessels anastomosing

with those deeper seated, furnished an adequate opportunity by the means of the former to expel the diseased redundancy in the latter. The restoration was expeditious, unequivocal, and permanent.

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THE DESTRUCTIVE TENDENCY OF LONDON ATMOSPHERE  
IN INCIPIENT PHTHISIS.

At the commencement of November 1815, I was summoned to a case of fever, of a few days duration, in the person of a very delicate female, ætatis 9. The whole frame appeared so shattered as to shock me exceedingly. The pulse was thready and 146; the whole of the symptoms indeed were of such a determined character, that I considered the case so nearly hopeless that I refused to prescribe medicine, requesting the removal of the sinking subject during the following forenoon to Hampstead, urging that if the removal was delayed, death would certainly be inevitable. At my visit the lady mother was surrounded by a large party of what, in the language of the world, are called *friends*; and thinking that I could scarcely be in earnest, in the midst of so gay a circle she smiled incredulously; and I was obliged to repeat my injunction in so emphatic a manner, that mamma, the governess, and my interesting little patient started as soon after breakfast as lengthened female preparations would admit. As “the stars fought against Sisera,” so the elements contended with my



remedial measures ; an intense frost having set in during the night, establishing, as was thought, a prohibitory law. My firm reply, however, was, "No ; get her out of London or she must quickly perish : nothing can save her." My visits were continued at the rural retreat chosen for the patient, where she was lodged in a well warmed room, in defiance of the icicles that hung round the windows, and supported by milk alone. During the first week of the change of place the symptoms appeared to be suspended ; by the second week a decidedly improved impression was made upon the pulse, and in two weeks more (an intense frost continuing all the time) she was fully convalescent ; continuing up to the present hour free from all appearance of hectic symptoms ; is in the possession of a full expanded chest, and bids fair to prove a blessing to her endeared circle.

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An elder sister of this young lady was, in February 1808, so reduced by hectic emaciation, that I insisted likewise upon her removal, refusing to give a grain of any medicine. By the time she had reached Holloway (for I accompanied her) she was so sensibly improved as to express herself by looks and language of no very ambiguous character ; returning in health after an absence of a few months from town.

I have now a patient apparently advancing rapidly towards dissolution, who has unfortunately for four months past been listening to the infatuating flattery and specious reasonings of one of the wisest in the Esculapian school; whose pulse, had she been out of medical hands, with the advantage alone of pure air, I believe would now have been 80 instead of 128!

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## LONDON PLAGUE.

Dr. Nat. Hodges (the Dr. Babington of his day) published an interesting volume of facts relative to this city scourge. The absurd confidence of many in the use of amulets is amusing. His Brunonian practice is not a little instructive. The principal subject which occupied my attention was the singular immunity which places occupied by spicy drugs and tobacco enjoyed, so much so that such articles may be termed prophylactics. The nostrils of most of us recognise *en passant*, the odoriferous fumes from the residence of a drug-merchant in Bucklersbury; reminding, probably, busy travellers of the value and efficacy of his articles of trade.

I was gratified by such a coincidence of acknowledgment, as I have long had positive proof of the preventive power of acetic acid, tobacco and spices, in checking pestilential fever; and may, without presumption, boast of having saved many scores, if not hundreds, by these simple gaseous exhalations, from the rage and risk of fever.

The metropolitan boundaries nearly two centuries ago circumscribed a population of not less than 800,000. I should think less than half that enormous number now occupy the same space ; so desirable has it been found to extend the limits occupied by human beings ; each of whom, to say nothing of the consumption by fire and quadrupeds, consumes one gallon of atmospheric air per minute.

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## LUMBAR PAINS.

Mrs. D——, ætatis 50, as comely a subject as ever trod on British ground, who had passed through a long continued series of multifarious vicissitudes, contracted ardent pneumonia ten years ago ; from which the lancet, promptly and liberally applied, completely rescued her. Dr. ——, whom she lately consulted, contented himself with prescribing expectorants and stomachics ; and having continued their use for several weeks without relief, she paid me a visit. I asked her to take a deep inspiration, and repeat it, which was unattended with the least impediment or uneasiness. The bowels were well attended to ; but upon inquiry as to the activity of the kidneys, I learned that the urine resembled brandy in appearance, and was so small in quantity as not to disturb the party throughout the whole day. There existed, however, constant pain in the loins, proving by the in-

efficacy of so much medicine, that the artillery had not been well applied. Diuretics promised the only relief; Potassæ Acetas. and the nephritic pill were taken; under the use of which the urinary secretion succumbed, and the pains in the region of the loins ceased altogether.

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## LOW SPIRITS

Are in some instances attributable to astmosphe-ric vicissitudes; in others to melancholy temperament, and occasionally to mental irritation, and incertitude as to pecuniary matters. But whatever be the real agency on the nerves, which are denominated tone, it is a latent power over which we have no control, and is that which I believe principally engenders and administers pabulum to the disease called *ennui*. Relief must be derived from means active or passive. Our prescriptions should, if possible, touch the identical points of irritation; and here the Extract of Ground-ivy may be introduced with very considerable advantage. Imaginary difficulties have their original result, as far as my observation reaches, in a "withholding more than is meet, and it tendeth to poverty," yet, upon inquiry, there is no lack of earthly good. The liberal soul is seldom so annoyed; his heart participates in the happiness of his fellow creatures; and "his morsel he will not eat alone." "God



loveth a cheerful giver." However, for many, we can only prescribe patience, and must be satisfied to wait for the tide, which will certainly return, accompanied with wonted hilarity. Domestic sharpness, blended with love, acts like frost in destroying corroding vermin, ultimately promoting the maturity of the soul; but low spirits demand feminine patience. The cheerful bride should not calculate too sanguinely upon the result of commercial speculation, somewhat presumptuously entered upon, as it will be quite time enough when success has crowned the speculation.

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## LIVER AFFECTION.

Mrs. S—— had just become a grand-mamma, when she experienced a cerebral attack, for the relief of which leeching and cupping were successfully employed. The symptoms returning, the same measures were again resorted to; but relief was so temporary and incomplete, as to dissatisfy all parties; and in the dilemma I was honoured with a visit. I concurred in toto, in the plan hitherto adopted, but judged that the pulse was of too feeble a character to admit of any further depletion. There were local pains about the clavicle, (the phrenic nerve sympathising,) much biliary deposition in the urine, and some deficiency of colour in the alvine secretions, so as to

establish beyond a doubt, that the present disease was, (whatever others might have been,) hepatic. The Blue Pill was the only medicine prescribed, and with such decided and permanent relief as exceedingly surprised me.

“ Doeth good like a medicine.”—PROVERBS.

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MANIA.

Miss R——, of Fleet-street, for several months exhibited unusual eccentricity, which was succeeded by indisputable aberration of mind. The subject of imaginary solicitude was reported to be religion (God's infallible remedy for every description of sensual madness.) Every expedient for relief was resorted to which relative or Christian kindness could dictate, when the discouraged parties called upon me. At the first interview the patient eyed me with profound suspicion. I smiled, and chucked her under the chin (a familiarity for which I have had a slap on the face.) She did not, however, meet the intimacy readily; nor could we persuade her to be still: she would be incessantly walking about. I could scarcely feel the pulse, which was feeble. Her whole lamentation was, that she and all the world would perish. To have disputed the maniacal point would have been fruitless; as soon, however, as I could get a hearing, in order to test the subject and the object at once, I looked sternly

at her, and asked, "Are you a sinner?" "No!" was the reply. "Did you ever hear of Christ, the Saviour?" "I never saw him." Then, addressing myself to Mrs. W——, her sister, I asked, "Do you read the Scriptures to her?" "No!" "Does she show a desire to pray?" "No!"

I commenced the treatment with Extr. Glecom. Hederac. and shortly she was able to sleep four hours during the night. I added Succ. Ejusmodi, with Ung. Tart. Antim. upon the nape of the neck. The symptoms continued obstinate until the end of two months, when she became more calm, allowing the indulgence of immunity from the useful and necessary waistcoat. She will almost shake hands with me, but until it becomes a voluntary act, I shall not pronounce her *compos mentis*.

During my attendance on this delicate lady, as in many preceding instances, I was struck with the absurd reasoning of Dr. Saunders—that gigantic genius on many subjects, who was accustomed to urge the utility of unqualified brutal force; because, forsooth, the party being destitute of reason, cannot be reasoned with. Thus his plodding pupils were stocked with very deficient information on the treatment of mania. So contrary is the fact, that even during a total eclipse, (I prefer that term to any other,) when the patient is raving and destructively violent, on a return to ratiocination there will be so retentive a memory respecting

insulting humiliations, detailing offensive particulars, minutely repeating them with such orderly correctness (and injuries inflicted under such a state of mind are not easily forgotten or forgiven) as has perfectly surprised me ; but why should we be surprised ? while “ man is moved by love ;” ah ! and the brute creation too. In our immensely crowded streets, a restive animal stirs up the biped, (much more the brute than the quadruped,) who displays abroad a character which his oppressed wife and terrified children are too familiar with in-doors ; whilst a gentleman possessed of patience and courage pats the noble beast upon his mane, who, thus encouraged, instantly shows pleasure, and commences anew the act of labour, which whips, and blows, and oaths could not unitedly induce him to perform.

“ The tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.”

“ He that ruleth his own spirit is better than he that taketh a city.”—PROVERBS.

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A maniacal attack, from causes wholly inexplicable and mysterious, was recently experienced by a young man, the darling hope of his family. The symptoms were subject to no particular paroxysm, but were of the most distressing and heart-rending character, the *Succus Glecomæ Hederaceæ* was strictly employed for a few weeks, without the



smallest sensible advantage, either in the grade of aberration, or in the diseased expression of countenance. Vexed at being so unexpectedly thwarted, and feeling some tendency towards despondency, I proposed as a counter irritation, the application of Unguent. Tart. Antimon., the circumscribed pimples produced by which, had no sooner appeared, than maniacal violence was immediately superseded by a return of reason; and permanent sanity was shortly established.

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## MEASLES

Are a visitation which, in rural districts, is usually of so mild a character as to excite no degree of alarm, even should the diseased parties reside beyond the reach of medical aid: thus exemplifying the aphorism, "God suits the back to the burden." But sometimes, particularly in crowded situations, this "diffusive poison," as Dr. Saunders used to call it, unlike the variolous, which poison he called "adhesive," occasionally assumes a character the most menacing and appalling. When consulted at the incipient stage, I instantly remove, by mercurial purgatives, that peculiar unhealthy fæculent matter with which the bowels are usually loaded, and which constitute the chief source of mischief to those organs, together with cooling drinks and moderate temperature. High arterial action must, notwithstanding, be opposed by local abstraction

and subsequent vesication, or irremediable injury may be done to the lungs. Thus, in three days we generally have the pleasure of congratulating the parties upon restoration from a condition of peril.

Provided the proper process has been neglected or overlooked, we shall be sure to be chastised with a wasting decline or marasmus. The lungs in the former instance having been neglected, the bowels in the latter. The glue-like viscid secretion, engendered in this disease, not being evacuated, will serve as a nidus for worms; whence we hear so much of the “nasty relics” of Measles, which will be mostly traceable to neglect. I remember being called in to see a family, where five children had severely suffered by neglected measles, of which their cadaverous countenances, hectic coughs, swollen bellies, &c. presented irrefragable proofs. The usual remedial resources availed nothing; and one only of the children (the most vigorous among them) escaped destruction, whose recovery I attribute more to the *vis medicatrix naturæ* than to the effect of medicine.

A child of my own was seized with every premonitory symptom of measles; but a bold dose of Calomel and Basilic powder so thoroughly acted upon the bowels, carrying off the customary fæculent matter, as to prevent the eruption altogether from exhibition. The fever was catarrhal, with redness of eyes, fully satisfying me of the character

of the malady. It was an observation of Dr. Saunders, the truth of which I have since proved, that "whatever the eruption may be, it cannot be measles, unless the accompanying fever be strictly catarrhal." The disease became so mild as almost to lead some persons to apprehend that a mistake had arisen.

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NOLI ME TANGERE

Appears to be the result of luxurious and long continued repletion, purposely to characterise the individual as by no means surfeited with papistical domination. It has been said, that if you plunge a needle into the nasal promontory, (an experiment I never tried,) there will ooze red wine. Some junior practitioners, who think that diseases of every kind may be knocked down as easily as nine pins, have attempted to touch this forbidden proboscis with a liquid caustic, and as far as I can learn the caustic has returned upon themselves, accompanied with many an oath for undertaking to cure the deformity.

"Vain man, on foolish pleasures bent,  
Prepares for his own punishment ;  
What pains, what loathsome maladies,  
From luxury and lust arise.  
The drunkard feels his vitals waste,  
Yet drowns his health to please his taste,  
Till all his active powers are lost,  
And fainting life draws near the dust."—WATTS.

## THE NIPPLE SHIELD,

Whether composed of silver, ivory, or box-wood, is occasionally a valuable appendage in the lying-in department. The air-pump machine is a useful auxiliary or rather preliminary. Many a time my feelings have been severely exercised in witnessing the distress of the mother while the new-born babe is hungrily intent upon satisfying nature's demands, the blood probably oozing from the infant's mouth. Here the humane contrivance of suffering the milk to flow, and the divided nipples to heal, appears of paramount importance. The predilection for one breast, namely, that which yields the lacteal nutriment with most facility must be subdued, (older children will not labour if bread in abundance flow easily;) and assistance may be afforded under the use of manual pressure.

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## OPENING OF ABSCESES.

It is a question that may with great propriety be asked, whether the opening of abscesses by the surgeon, or by nature, is to be preferred? The active agents in the healing art assert, that the cavity, and, necessarily the quantity of secreted pus, is, by the introduction of the lancet, greatly diminished; but this assertion the advocates for



nature's tedious process deny; and indeed I am satisfied that the promptitude and expedition of the former is more than counter-balanced by the permanency of the latter. Some sayings of the wise ought never to be forgotten: "the spongy mouth," which nature secures, lays the foundation (by the exclusion of atmospheric air) of a radical cure; but it is certainly effected by a much more tedious process than by surgical interference.

Mrs. S——, ætatis 50, laboured under an extended tumefaction and inflammation about the glutæi muscles. The parties being wealthy, additional advice, and that of the first character, was recommended; which, being acceded to, we met in consultation, when the lancet was proposed, though I said "I could wish to have seen a pointing indication before its use." "O Sir," was the reply, "we can't go wrong, the whole extent is an abscess." It was accordingly introduced very deep, but blood only followed. The patient would not submit to it a second time; and nature poured forth an immense quantity of pus four days afterwards, about six inches distant from the original incision.

Those who are in the habit of using surgical instruments daily must greatly add to the prolonging of human existence, and be enviable mortals on that account; but could this smaller subject be scientifically set at rest, much more good would be accomplished for the community.

## OPIUM.

The beneficial effects of this excellent drug were exemplified in the person of Mr. Y—— of the Strand, whose bowels had been raked successively with various drastic purgatives, under the prescriptions of a metropolitan luminary. The spasmodic tormina, the consequence of this treatment, was attempted to be relieved by *Hyoscyamus* (the favourite of the day), though of very ambiguous efficacy; but the occasional torment in the bowels continuing with augmented force, obliged the patient to summon my attendance. Soon after my arrival he had a spasm which irresistibly dragged his chin towards the knees, which was so rapidly succeeded as to compel me hastily to get down, in pills, *Pulv. Opii gr. ij.* The relief was instantaneous, each succeeding spasm being reduced in severity, and the danger abated by the distance of time between their occurrence. He slept well all night, and has enjoyed perfect immunity for some time.

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Miss Mary H——, æt. 21, consulted me in a similar case, to whom I administered the same remedy, *gr. j.*; and no sooner had the medicine reached the stomach, than all distressing spasmodic pains instantly ceased without a return.

## EGYPTIAN OPHTHALMIA.

Societies which inflexibly adhere to anciently prescribed rules, studiously opposing innovations of every kind, infallibly engender the elements of their own dissolution. "God's work is perfect" and instantaneous, admitting no varied degree, whereas

"The works of man inherit, as is just,  
Their author's frailty, and return to dust."—COWPER:

The native practitioners in Egypt, we are told, never bleed for the cure of ophthalmia; and why British oculists contend for its necessity I have yet to learn; for most assuredly, as far as my experience extends, I have never recognised its beneficial influence alone, and still believe that whilst the mode of cure is confined to general blood-letting, the suffering and tender-eyed patient will be positively exsanguineous before relief is accomplished. By local vesications and stimulating applications, I have hitherto reduced every ophthalmic case which has been consigned to my care, and calculate upon no untractable one under such a process. It is presumed that the inflamed vessels (as the collapsed cerebral in the latter stage of typhus,) are passively incapable of exerting a tonic energy (natural in good health) sufficient to eject their contents, whereas the beneficial effects re-

sulting from stimuli in similarly exposed situations is remarkably conspicuous.

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#### IS PUERPERAL FEVER INFECTIOUS?

This inquiry involves such an extent of importance, that I deem no apology necessary for a second time bringing it forward. Those practitioners whose obstetric services are of long duration, give for the most part a positive answer. It is difficult to reconcile to our friends the supposition that an agent in the invaluable healing art should be indirectly chargeable with transmitting pestiferous and often fatal contagion, and that under the semblance of preserving and prolonging human existence: To concede the point,—this is certain, that a foetid effluvia, *sui generis*, is generated under some stages of puerperal fever; that it does not appear capable of reproduction under circumstances of a recent parturition, or why, under complaints of its frequent occurrence of which I have heard of nine fatal instances at one period, should older practitioners advise the entire change of clothes, and, in lying-in-hospitals, the removal of the diseased parties? In the case of Mrs. D—, Dr. B—, (having, I presume, at the time under his care, puerperal fever,) actually had a separate suit in which he visited her. But she nevertheless contracted, from some cause, puerperal fever, of which she died; and although she



sunk to her final rest full of Christian submission and confidence, we cannot but lament that she has left the bereaved party most deeply to deplore a loss which appears to be unspeakable as it is permanent.

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PRACTICE IN MEDICINE MAY BE TOO EXTENSIVE.

A practitioner who has too many demands is confessedly subjected to much inconvenience, to say nothing of the privation of domestic comforts. Dr. M. Baillie throughout the latter period of his invaluable life, restricted himself to four in-door patients per diem, (the motive was excellent, though whimsical in the eyes of a South Briton.) Conversing some time since with one who is utterly unable, notwithstanding his activity, to attend upon every demand, (for to deny has, at least, the appearance of unkindness,) I was interrogating him as to his views and experience in a reported improved method of treating certain diseases, and the reply, "I do not know what is going on in the medical world for six or eight months together," astonished me. Indeed! thought I, your long and extensive practice does not possess that perfection then of which it is capable, and ought to have attained.

## EFFECT OF AN EMETIC IN PHTHISIS.

Miss Phœbe F——, fifty miles to the west of the Metropolis contracted delicate lungs, which degenerated into disease. Many months had rolled on, (allowing the pious party to instruct in an edifying manner,) viz. by the “silent eloquence of a holy life,” twelve younger brothers and sisters. The medical confidant, long a blessing in that populous town, had a visitor from London in the person of Dr. ——, who accompanied him in his professional circuit. Miss P—— F—— particularly attracted his attention. London practitioners sometimes think they are “wiser than seven men who can render a reason,” and he prescribed an Emetic, the exertion attending the operation of which was so exhausting, as to carry her off within a few hours afterwards, to the regret and dismay of all parties.

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PHTHISIS PULMONALIS.

Mr. ——, of Trinity-lane, carcass-butcher, (a class of persons, generally speaking, proverbially healthy,) applied for medical aid. The symptoms were rapid emaciation, continued cough without expectoration, thoracic pain, pulse uniformly 120. Vesications were the only remedial resources I felt disposed to rely upon, and I therefore positively

refused to adopt any other mode of relief whilst my patient continued to officiate in his business in town; his departure was however delayed from time to time; but I was still peremptory in insisting upon rural scenery as alone calculated to afford the smallest hope of relief. The weather was most unfriendly, cold, raw, and wet; and when purer air was inhaled, it was attended with injurious circumstances; as Cowper says,—

“ Breathe dust, and call it country air ;”

Mr. ——— would, notwithstanding remonstrances, spend the greater part of every day in town, it was not therefore surprising that after the trial of two months, he should return worse rather than better. At the end of three months he expired, leaving two sons and a daughter; since which one son has followed the father, the daughter is in extreme peril, owing to debility, and the other son labours under every characteristic mark of incipient phthisis; to whom I have just now been saying, as the Scripture observes, “ the one to his farm, the other to his merchandise.” My young neighbour I advise to retire out of Town altogether, if he wish to see “ three-score years and ten ;” but the want of success on a former occasion, as no allowances will, I presume, be made for the improper manner in which the experiment was tried; will operate too effectually as a prohibitory law. I said, “ I am not surprised to hear you say, that the country always

agrees best with you. I should add, as a probable prediction, that a similar predilection may determine your choice of residence for five years to come, when it may be hoped your debilitated constitutional temperament would be re-established so firmly as to set at defiance, humanly speaking, the ordinary assaults of disease."

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Somewhat more than thirty years ago, our Gallic neighbours who dedicate their time and talents to the healing art, finding, by uniform experience, that an excess of phlogiston is unfriendly to consumptive subjects (a lesson some with us have yet to learn,) by a mode of reasoning, scientific and philosophical, suggested the trial of placing phthical patients in such a situation as should enable them to inhale dephlogisticated air, (without phlogiston,) several cases underwent the justifiable test: the result was, that in every instance, dissolution was unquestionably accelerated. The mode in which the experiment was conducted was so perfectly satisfactory to all who were interested in the matter as to set the subject at rest probably for ever. Some who have affected to be wiser than the wisest, have attempted to nourish the human frame by concentrated sustenance, deprived of fæculent menstrua; but nature resents the absurdity. Again, (poor man is perpetually aspiring after the attainment of extremes,) some have pleaded for support only on vegetables, on



the principle of humanity to the brute creation. This is to be "wise above what is written." I should question much the tender affection of such sensitive spirits. Diabetic patients, compelled to live on animal food alone, are so exceedingly harassed by nature's occasional demands for vegetable sustenance, that the diseased subjects will indulge, though they are conscious it will be at the expense of an increase of the annoying symptoms.

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## PERUVIAN BARK NOT EXPLODED.

Being, in my own person, persuaded to put to the test the effect of lower living, the pulse becoming fuller than usual, and hemiplegia, in a variety of grades and aspects, more or less formidable, being uncommonly prevalent at that period, I was unwilling to be upbraided by my own conscience with constructive suicide. I persisted for a while, until a head-ache attacked me, which remained for two hours, and gradually and spontaneously receded. On the next day my unwelcome visitor obtruded himself again with similar results. I now became acquainted with the character of the disqualifying adversary, and at the close of the paroxysm commenced with Cinchona, blended with a little rum and milk. The following day a slight indication manifested itself, sufficient to prove the intermittent nature of the seizure, and the efficacy

of the remedy. I followed it up, according to Dr. Lettsom's mysterious advice, for twenty-one days, and have enjoyed perfect immunity ever since.

“Doeth good like a medicine.”—PROVERBS.

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## PROSA.

I had not been in town many months before I was struck with surprise at the complicated mode employed in treating the Itch. In Norfolk, we always considered it simply a cutaneous affection, arising from animalculæ, obtaining possession, and multiplying with extraordinary increase. That “the cause being removed, the effect ceases,” is admitted on all hands; the destruction, therefore, of the peculiar insects speedily accomplishes the cure, to effect which, nothing is so efficacious as the Sulphur Vivum. Internal medicines are works of supererogation.

Miss F——, commiserating the situation of a destitute female, permitted her for a night to share her bed, a kindness for which she was repaid by a teasing customer. After enduring the fidget of unceasing rubbing and scratching for a long time, a female prescribed the Mercurial Ointment.

Medical men smile when females prescribe, as counsellors do when clients plead. This accomplished lady was placed under such a state of sali-

vation as to render deglutition for three or four days impracticable, exciting the keenest sympathy and alarm in the minds of an extensive and endeared circle.

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PODAGRA.

It is almost insupportable to endure incessant jobations on the subject of leeches for the gout, by an opposed reference to the fatal effects of that valuable auxiliary, in the person of an old broken-down debauchee, whose devotions had been paid at the temples of Venus and Bacchus most punctually for the space of more than forty years. What can be the surprise if such a limb become sphacclated? Are we to be deterred from prosecuting the moderately depletory plan? I trow not.

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PUERPERAL PERITONITIS.

Mrs. L——, ætatis 45, was delivered of her seventh child. During the latter period of uterogestation, she anticipated the fatal termination, and hailed it as a source of joy, although every circumstance around her was calculated to excite the desire of length of days; the parties being both unusually pious. The accouchement was accomplished on a Monday, unattended with any particular accompaniment. Abdominal pains and fever very

rapidly supervened, with delirium, up to the Friday following; when the head became clear. The diseased subject expressed her joy in God, and expired on the same evening. She had written to her favourite minister not to be surprised to hear that she should soon be no more; requesting him not to be grieved on her account, for another of his flock would have entered heaven. A few hours prior to her demise, she summoned her husband and five children, and committed them devoutly, in a patriarchal manner, into the care of a covenant God and Father in Christ; who, though they mourn over their loss, exult in the reflection of having contributed to add to her felicity while on earth.

“ His mercy visits every house  
That pay their night and morning vows;  
But makes a more delightful stay  
Where churches meet to praise and pray.

What glories were describ'd of old !  
What wonders are of Zion told !  
Thou city of our God below,  
Thy fame shall Tyre and Egypt know.

Egypt and Tyre, and Greck and Jew,  
Shall there begin their lives anew.  
Angels and men shall join to sing  
The hill where living waters spring.

When God makes up his last account  
Of natives, in his holy mount,  
’Twill be an honour to appear  
As one new born or nourish’d there.”—WATTS.



## THE PULSE.

The pulse is as much the barometrical guide to the operations of the medical man, as the price of stock is to the speculations of the capitalist. No sophistical reasonings of the pauperised and disaffected part of the community, as to national bankruptcy, can gain access to the minds of the industrious and contented portion of the empire, nor can the fears of interested parties surrounding the patient intimidate the firm and conscientious practitioner. There is a certain tact, not designedly mysterious, but yet cognisable to the practitioner's finger alone. Of the truth of this assertion Dr. John Clarke was so confident, that he was frequently in the habit of adopting various modes of putting to the test his pupils' sensitive capabilities; yet, in the midst of this acknowledged concession, how often are we embarrassed by stultified interference; the parties probably disqualified by some degree of anæsthesia. I remember, on the occasion of the lamented death of a great legislator, eighteen or nineteen years ago, his medical confidants were bitterly reflected upon, from a report having gone abroad that they had made use of unwarrantable doses of a certain favourite vegetable. On the parties being subjected to a disgusting interrogatory, they calmly replied in the negative; but a few days afterwards, a second summons was re-

ceived, when the charge was an intimation, that had that medicine been liberally employed, which they refused, the legislator might have lived.

If we find the pulse below rather than above its proper tone, we should refuse the use of the lancet, even under the dictation of the highest authority. Justice, both to ourselves and the public, requires of us this peremptory decision, and *vice versâ*. A timid practitioner, preferring present peace to an approving conscience, may be captivated by the obstetric reasonings of Dr. Denman's fatal absurdity, "spontaneous evolution," and, thinking to transfer the onus of responsibility to that great character, may concede the right of private judgment; but if we tamely behold the ravages of disease making, probably, rapid strides towards premature dissolution, hypochondriasis, phthisis, anasarca, or ascites, without lifting up the voice of protest and remonstrance, destruction may "lie at our doors."

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## RAPE.

Whether the crime of violation be worthy of the penalty of death, I leave with the wisdom and solemn responsibility of the executive power.

Many years ago, I was urged to examine a reputed case of this description, and to give evidence accordingly at the Old Bailey. I peremp-

torily refused, entertaining secretly no favourable opinion of the chastity of the injured female, and aware that the parents (who were debased Hibernians) were capable of feeling themselves fully recompensed by the overture of a contemptible fee: this prompt decision has furnished me with augmented satisfaction as I have advanced along the peaceful and pleasing journey of life. Corroborating proofs multiply upon us, prodigiously calculated to illumine this mysterious subject. It appears, from unquestionable evidence, that upon an indelicate approach to the infant female, although the object be not accomplished, the slightest degree of distention will frequently be followed up with irritation, inflammation, purulent discharges, ulceration, and finally of a phagadenic character, especially if the party be possessed of a scrofulous diathesis temperament, notwithstanding the male delinquent be perfectly free from disease; yea, such is the abomination of the human heart, syphilitic virus, always attainable at houses of infamy, (as Scripture says, "set apart for pollution,") is deliberately deposited with the most malicious view of extorting money, blasting the character, and probably terminating in the ignominious death of the victim. The injured females will quickly recover under an application of poultices, compounded with the black wash remedy, Lime Water, and Calomel.

Oh! how much caution is necessary before pro-



fessional testimony shall determine on the matter. I have known two instances where the fathers refused to sleep with an infant daughter, fearful of a sexual impulse assailing them during the unconscious moments of sleep.

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## RHEUMATISMUS.

Mr. R—— contracted cold: the muscles on the shoulder and back were chiefly implicated, locally accompanied with a full and febrile pulse. He had been a patient of mine under a variety of occasions since the year 1795; the last rheumatic seizure was about nine years ago. I was about to prescribe with some gravity, when I was suddenly interrupted by the intelligence that the patient was going to dine with the free-masons at five. “Ah! indeed if I laboured under your symptoms, I should resign myself to the horizontal posture;” but the temptation was too strong for a bon vivant: “you would not be so free on the continent as you will be in Great Queen-street, where the authorities rule by deceit and treachery, fearing alike combination and exposures.”

The next morning early I was summoned to see my patient. He would now submit to every thing I should prescribe, and prefaced his concession by affirming most positively that he had not taken more than *ten* glasses of wine amongst the jovial



free-masons. Depletion, cathartics, diaphoretics, and diluents reduced the symptoms in one day.

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## AN ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE.

I was aroused from my bed early in the morning, with the frightful tidings that Mrs. N——, of Budge-row, had cut her throat. I put my apparatus in my pocket, having it always at hand (with waxed thread, crooked needles, scalpel, tenaculum scissors, lint, &c.) for occasions of urgent emergency, and rushed forward through a cloud of sobs and dismay, better conceived than expressed. I found an oppressed, half-witted, delicate female had divided the trachea, and was bleeding freely. As no vessel of magnitude had been divided, the incision was instantly stitched up, and I charged the penitent parties not to leave her upon any pretence whatever.

Upon returning home, I delivered a lecture (a curious subject) upon the advantages of ignorance. This irritated wife unquestionably intended (as far as we were capable of inferring) to dispose of life by sinful and unwarrantable means, and had she been better informed would have known that the mere division of the wind-pipe would not necessarily accomplish that end. We read of pious frauds which the protestant churches protest against as unscriptural, but this "popular error" has indi-

rectly preserved the lives of many more as well as my patient.

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#### VAGINAL STRICTURE

Is an occurrence, though rare, inducing much solicitude when the parties enter into "honourable bonds." Dr. John Clarke used to pronounce his opinion of the practicability of its correction with great facility by the introduction of a bougie of gradually enlarged dimensions, preparing the bride for that proud and enviable position which "ladies long to be who love their lords."

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#### SWEATING A SUBSTITUTE FOR BLEEDING, WITH A VIEW OF REDUCING ARTERIAL EXCITEMENT.

Dr. W. Saunders was accustomed to dwell at much length upon the value and efficiency of diaphoretics: his argument has considerable weight, when the extensive surface which the cuticle affords is allowed to pour forth diseased redundancy. I had recently an instance in proof of the truth of this observation. Mrs. W——, ætatis 72, whose pulse to my certain knowledge, by more than twenty years' experience, is always far above the ordinary tone of vigour; on the last occasion, which was that of cynanche, there existed, superadded to the customary symptoms, a full, bounding, and rapid pulse. I suggested, rather than urged,

the use of the lancet; cupping having been submitted to four years ago, which was unexpectedly attended with syncope, when it was doubtful whether the operation retarded or promoted convalescence. I felt disposed to substitute Pulv. Antimon. ʒss. as a perspirable febrifuge for bed time, using local vesications and cathartics of course. The next day exhibited no improvement, although the medicine had produced diaphoresis through the night; a second dose was put to the test, and the character of the pulse improved; a third was subjoined and the patient was so relieved that she pleaded for a little food. Had this case not succeeded, I should have reflected upon myself in conceding too tamely to the unreasonable fears of that "bug-bear, debility."

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## INJURED SPINE.

Violent concussions occasionally occur, inflicting incurable mischief on parts eminently essential to useful activity and life; the paralysed bladder rendering it needful (I presume the fact) to use the catheter daily, the rupture of the urethral canal or *lucunæ* is of all things to be avoided. I had an endeared relative, in whom was laid the foundation of irreparable mischief, by the unwarrantable use of caustic bougies, and common bougies introduced with rupturing violence in the hands of the first talents. Distressing pains succeeded,



and carried him off from busy scenes amidst the western squares, many years before his time. Mr. Cline's caution, as usual, here comes in most seasonably; the curvature made with the catheter must be as near as possible at right angles; but after this difficulty is surmounted with patience and tolerable facility, we are perplexingly embarrassed by an unexpected impediment, the secretory fluids of the bladder will often be found to have collected what may be called catarrhus visicæ, nay an aluminous or gelatinous deposit will literally choke up the orifices of the catheter, and preclude the possibility of relieving the overcharged viscus, in which case no relief to the patient is afforded. I have seen the perinæum penetrated by the trocar. In any subsequent case of the kind, I should prefer puncturing the projecting bladder through the inner coat of the rectum.

Mr. Calloway (a star of the first magnitude) assures us that the external application of the Turpentine Liniment will be found highly useful under such circumstances.

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#### SCROFULA.

In a disease contracted by hereditary taint, and so unmanageable as to leave most of us desponding of affording relief above what nutritious aliment is capable of producing, assisted by nature's developing



powers in puberty, it is refreshing to the human mind to be informed from the first sources of respectability, that a minute proportion of the Oxy-muriate (say gr. xxxij.) given twice a day in a soluble state, if persevered in, will so invigorate the tone of the muscular fibre, improve the mesenteric glands, and rectify the digestive functions, as to set aside all the peculiar characteristic traits of struma altogether. "Let us live and learn."

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## SCHIRROUS PYLORIS.

A pious domestic, whose long and faithful services had excited among us all a more than ordinary attachment, was visited by her father from Wiltshire. The poor man was labouring under extreme emaciation, frequent sickness, gastric pains, and inability to preserve the erect posture. Feeling that my resources were perfectly inefficient to meet the appalling exigency, I sent the patient to Dr. Clutterbuck, with a fee, requesting the aid of his superior sagacity. The fee was most politely refused, but the anatomical observations of the Doctor were worth more than twenty fees. He considered the cause of all the symptoms to be an incurably diseased stomach. Two months afterwards, post mortem examination proved too correctly the prognosis which Mr. Pettigrew, a western literary luminary, has reserved in his Museum.

Whether the singularly economic habits of this poor rural labourer had any share in producing this schirrosity of the stomach (as his relatives affirm) is not for me to determine; but for a long period of his existence he was chiefly supported by sustenance which every one else refused to partake of, such as animals that died accidentally, or ordinary food which was so much tainted as to nauseate most appetites, but which he could eat with an apparent relish.

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#### THE SCROTUM INJURED BY A RAT.

A man retiring to a strange privy, of the danger attending which he was not aware, from the vault, which led to extensive communicating waters, harbouring rats of a peculiar kind, was seized by one who retained his hold so tenaciously as to dispute the point of possession; as though the quadruped had received a *legal* education at one of our Inns of Court. No evil resulted from the event, further than its serving as a subject for a great deal of merriment in the rude and extensive circle.

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#### SYPHILITIC SEQUELÆ.

About ten years ago I was sent for to pass an opinion upon the case of Mr. —, North of St. Paul's. The stranger, ætatis 35, was so totally incapacitated for any bodily exercise as perfectly

to surprise me. He had been under the care of several practitioners, who called his disorder rheumatic gout and gouty rheumatism, which Dr. Saunders used to denominate "convenient phrases." I interrogated him as to his earlier habits, which, it was presumed, were somewhat dissolute. He promptly replied, that he had been a gay young man—a very gay young man. Now, although this confession is too common amongst the sons of Lucifer, I felt indignant that no visible signs of regret accompanied the acknowledgement. He disapproved of my morality, and we soon separated; for to relieve him from premature decrepitude was out of hope; but what added poignancy to the scene was the presence of the youthful bride, who, with her person, presented 6000*l.*, (sufficient for any individual of the human race,) from whose suggestion it appeared I had been sent for. Very recently, I had an opportunity of inquiring of the wife's mother concerning Mr. —, when I was informed that he continues the same as when I saw him. "He was at Brighton three months, and took the benefit of the vapour and hot baths, &c., but without the smallest advantage. I am grieved for my daughter Charlotte, for she is quite a nurse;" said the venerable parent; adding, "it is well there is no family." "Give not thy strength unto women," says Solomon. There seems an unfortunate fatality upon the daughters of this family. Another was on the point of being allied to a young



man who, upon lucky inquiry, it was found had long cohabited with a woman by whom he had several children.

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## SPASMODIC CROUP

Is of rare though occasional occurrence. The metropolitan atmosphere (owing to its permanent state of union with sulphureous naphtha) appears, in many cases, to be peculiarly prejudicial. Camphor, Castor, and Anodynes, have been eminently useful in checking the distressing symptoms, and relieving the patient of Spasmodic Croup.

In Pertussis I never lay stress upon a change of air from London to the country, or *vice versâ*, as some recommend, probably to rid themselves of patients whose maladies resist the usual remedial resources ; but in spasmodic croup, as well as in incipient phthisis, nascent and crescent, we must be compelled to advise the parties to inhale more dephlogisticated air. Change of air is not the legitimate remedy for Pertussis ; it is holding out “ false colours.” Adequate relief is not derivable from such sources ; being only obtainable by Antimonials, Expectorants, and Counter-irritants.



## DELICATE SPINE.

Miss W——, ætatis 12, showed a tendency to a lateral curvature; and one shoulder projected a little more than the other, which the parents were endeavouring to correct by means the most absurd. I set the matter at rest, by exposing the spine to view; on which two vertebral prominences indicated the seat of the disease. Rest and Ung. Tart. Antimon. were all that were deemed necessary. The usual circumscribed pustules were soon visible, accompanied by an eruption of a miliary character about the lumbar and dorsal regions, extending around the whole abdomen, where the Ointment had not been applied. I considered it to be a proof of nature's consentaneous operation; approving, as it were, of the measure, and seconding the proposal. The child was, in less than a month, so improved, that it appeared superfluous to urge the continuance of any further scientific interference.

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 TRAVELLING IN A CARRIAGE,

In our immense Metropolis, is occasionally attended with much inconvenience and danger; to say nothing of the delay attendant upon the multitude of vehicles of every description, the turbulence of the drivers, and the want of temper and conciliation proverbially manifest amongst that class of

the illiterate; furnishing the community with a correct specimen of the brutal outrage which would prevail were such persons ever to obtain ascendancy as rulers (which Heaven avert.) “Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles,” Solomon says. In ordinary interruptions to the moving mass of bipeds and quadrupeds, the elevated whip furnishes a sufficient hint to the successor, who ought cautiously to “pull in;” but although this universally recognised signal is generally regarded, we shall find, on search, more than half the number of hackneyed vehicles bear sad marks of inattention on the hinder parts, leaving the imagination full scope on the subject of fear and fracture, as to the spindle-shanks of the footmen, or go-behinds; but the most dangerous situation is the result of suddenly pulling the check-string, when the coachman, intent upon promptly obeying the signal, is sometimes thrown off his guard, and consequently neglectful of the usual caution, by which he runs the risk of having the pole of the succeeding carriage driven through the panels of the one he is driving. I have often witnessed extreme difficulty in preventing this probable occurrence.

Mrs. W——, a most accomplished and pious character, whose “charity never failed,” was thus irreparably injured; the pole of a chariot being thrust with such prodigious violence through her carriage as to inflict a blow upon the loins which

disqualified her from exertion for the residue of life. She used to lie upon the couch all day, arranging domestic and charitable plans, evincing uncommon patience, but still enjoying the sympathising attentions of the pious circle; and, at the expiration of the twelfth year from the date of the accident, died in peace, firmly relying on revealed veracity.

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## VOMITING OF BLOOD.

A female pauper, ætatis 50, called on me with an appearance almost exsanguineous, pulse thready and feeble, with incapacity to preserve the erect posture. Fearing she would die under my habitation, I furnished her with Infus. Rosæ and specie, telling her to procure and subsist upon Red Wine Negus; to take small and divided portions to allay sickness, with which she was harassed. The right of private judgment is free to all; no reasoning should have induced me to employ the lancet under such circumstances.

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## WORMS.

Repeated instances of failure under the use of Spirit Terebinthinæ, in Tænia, (in which the Spanish mendicant monks are so successful) may satisfactorily be explained as follows:—Many yards of the jointed tape-worm (say twenty or sixty) will be expelled by ordinary purgatives, leaving the



elongated dark-coloured head and neck of the animal untouched, capable of renewing with rapid increase *ad libitum*, soon annoying the patient as before, by its singularly procreative faculty ; but by one effectual dose of the specific spirit the worm is compelled to abandon his hold, and is not unfrequently literally dissolved, appearing in the vessel a gelatinous mass, which many have mistaken for intestinal mucus, and the patient is cured.

So unsuccessful are most anthelmintics for *Tænia*, that the government of France voted 5000*l.* to a native female, who had long practised with some fame in the treatment of this untractable malady, for the secret ; which turned out to be, together with Calomel, the pulverized preparation of the Malefern. But since Dr. Laird (that distinguished luminary) first made the subject known to the medical world in 1809 or 1810, we are in possession of a remedy which, I trust, will never mortify us by disappointment.

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## WHOOPIING COUGH.

The most successful mode of treatment ought to anticipate the payment of some discount, or we should be “ exalted above measure.”

About three years since, I was summoned to see three families at the same period of time, of



the most respectable order, all labouring under violent pertussis. I had the mortification to witness the complete inertness of the medicine in the operation of which I have long been accustomed to repose implicit confidence; and in short, surprised at the patient perseverance of the parties so deeply interested. I was ashamed that the report of its efficacy had reached their ears, lest they should think I had imposed upon them by overrating its value; and how to account for it I am utterly at a loss to the present day; for I am continually applied to for its use by families who have experienced its efficacy, some five, some seven, and many ten years ago, and more, and who come to be replenished with it, assuring me of its speedy and radical operation upon its trial only for a few days.

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This disease had entered a clergyman's family, in which Sulphur. Antimon. Præcipitat. blended with minute portions of Tartrite of Antimony had, on former occasions, been administered with the happiest effects, as well as in the families of some of their acquaintance; but a little daughter, ætatis 5, of delicate temperament, was more severely attacked by the visitation than was apprehended by the parents (such is the disadvantage attending all empirical resources.) My painful regrets were excited when called in to see the distressed case.

Other means should have been the precursors to my favourite remedy; and according to this impression I acted. The pulse was feeble and frequent, the tongue excessively furred, breathing painful and burdensome; by emetics, &c. the air-cells were, however, unloaded, the tongue cleared, and circumstances promised favourably, when suddenly, as by a metastasis, inflammation of the bowels supervened, liberating the lungs of course, but exposing us to an attack from an unexpected quarter; now again my fears recurred; my little patient said she should die, and as I have seldom found such prophets fail in their predictions, I felt a synchronous tone of mind: reflecting that I should probably have applied a few leeches prior to a large blister, which was removed after the fourth hour, lest mortification should result, as I have in six or seven instances known to be the case; comparative cheerfulness however sat on the brow, which had been clouded by pain, fever, and cadaverous aspect, and my patient finally rallied, contrary to the infantile prediction, which is, as far as my memory can with correctness retrace, the only instance of the kind.

I envy not the feelings of those who can exult in the "glorious uncertainty of the law,"—mine be it to deplore the sad uncertainty of medicine. In some families this remedy for the whooping cough, with which I have been familiar from the year 1793, to the present period inclusively, with aug-

mented satisfaction, occasionally appears to be perfectly inert.

The viscid phlegm dislodged after nature's second spasmodic struggle, if swallowed, for the most part acts, as far as my judgment extends, in a purgative way; and in pursuance of this feeling, I always dissuade from officious interference, so painful to all parties. The little sufferers have quite enough to combat with in the unmanageable affection: they need not be teased by any addition; which is on all occasions manifestly irksome.

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THE WEST-INDIAN FEVER.

The fever peculiar to the West Indies, I am informed by an intelligent character who has had long and extensive opportunities of forming an opinion, is best extinguished by swallowing a tumbler of Rum with which Bark (not pulverised mahogany saw-dust) has been mixed, instantly upon the commencement of the symptoms. The effects are usually a profound sleep, from which the party wakes free from every febrile annoyance. If this statement be practically correct, what becomes of the doctrine of arterial excitement as the only cause of fever?



## ANEURISM.

Conversing very recently upon this untractable malady with Dr. Frampton, a physician of no ordinary discernment, I was considerably gratified, upon comparing sentiments, notes, and experience, in noticing the remarkable coincidence of conclusions at which we had arrived; viz. that the occasional use of the lancet does not postpone the fatal rupture, and that anodynes appear to possess a power in delaying that critical and awful period.

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## BLEEDING IN DROPSY

Presents to the medical mind as anomalous an association, as a disaffected disciple in one character is nauseating and insufferable. After an experience of thirty-four years, we were accustomed to content ourselves with the general propriety of withholding the lancet in cases of ascites, confirming the principle upon the rules of common sense, which admit the occasional occurrence of a redundant quantity of interstitial fluid being suffered to deposit under the extreme use of venesection, but as "time discloses all secrets," medical amongst others, Dr. ——— gravely informs us, that the lancet is the cure for dropsy; general smiles of scepticism make no impression upon the countenance



of the learned and laborious M.D., conscious of the possession of truth and success, he continues his exhortations.

About four years ago I was sent for to see Mrs. B——, of Fleet-street, ætatis 65, a cheerful and pious character, labouring under ascites. The pulse was unusually full for such an appendage: this is a case, thought I, precisely in point, which will put to the test the truth of the observations with which we are inundated. The good lady submitted to the lancet; the blood was highly carbonated, no sensible relief was afforded, and she suddenly expired a few days afterwards.

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A CALCULOUS CASE WITH SCROFULA.

Mrs. S—— brought her little boy, ætatis 4, who had expelled, after extreme difficulty, a phosphate calculus, similar to a grain of corn, with fluted indentations. Grieved at witnessing such a constitutional tendency in that sex, I prescribed the occasional use of Magnesia. Two years had expired when the anxious mother paid me a second visit. It appeared, the Magnesia had hitherto prevented a calculous accumulation, but the child had been placed under the care of an aspiring metropolitan luminary, who thought that leeches and Calomel would set him up: exhausted patience and ardent promises failing, I was honoured with a visit. On the second view of the diseased subject, I instantly

recognised the latent germ of Struma, which I feared had been brought into action by the depletory process. I suggested there might have been propriety in what had been recommended; but, were he my son, I should discontinue the use of all medicine, (except occasionally Magnesia,) and gave him by way of practical specimen a wine glass full of sweet wine.

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CORONA GLANDIS.

The sebaceous matter secreted and deposited is sometimes of so irritating a character as to excite excoriation, not unfrequently transmitting the semblance (though not the reality) of infection to the married wife, furnishing occasions for an unwise and suspicious mind of producing mutual jealousies, and temporary domestic bickerings, which have no foundation whatever in truth, and the cause of which is quickly removed by Solut. Sulph. Zinci.

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THE UNIFORMITY OF FEBRILE SYMPTOMS AS TO THEIR  
GENERAL CHARACTER IN AN INCIPIENT STATE.

I trust it is no heresy in the medical world, if granted that a catarrhal train of premonitory indications will portend the development of influenza and measles; that soreness of deglutition and some

rigidity of the cervical muscle will intimate the existence of Scarlatina; that lumbar pains will precede the variola and gastric tenderness (hence the utility of leeching) in erysipelas; but for infallible certainty to be insisted upon of the medical practitioner, by the inquiring relatives in the shape of "crusty critics," I contend is both uncandid and unnecessary.

About the spring of 1814, I attended a little boy, the son of Mr. —, of Holborn, who married a daughter of that venerable ambassador, the Rev. Abraham Booth, who refused the honours of D. D. The symptoms assumed the ordinary character of fever, for the relief of which I reposed implicit confidence in our usual antiphlogistics, and not knowing what a few days would elicit, I advised the preventive influence of Acetic Acid in a gaseous form, to defend the inmates against infection, (which I had always seen to answer the end desired,) lest typhus, in any of its mischievous characters, should burst in upon us; the following day we detected an eruption, which, by its singularly gritty feel, could not be mistaken for the small pock; the prophylactic apparatus now became the subject of contempt, and he who advised it was charged with ignorance. It appeared that the vaccination of the child had been forgotten; he, however, went through the process very well, and I took my leave, accompanying it with some expression of my displeasure at the defi-



ciency of gratitude evinced by the parties; since which period I have not entered their habitation.

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## DENTITION.

Nature seldom fails in adapting her resources to the exigencies of her necessitous circumstances. I cannot conceive how the simple operation of teething, *per se*, should be accompanied with danger to the little parties, provided the nutriment has been appropriate, namely, chiefly vegetable, accompanied with due attention to the bowels. Not unfrequently cerebral inflammation will be in full and fatal force, while the incautious parents are anticipating only simple dentition. I was, per chance, an eye witness to this error, which would most assuredly have terminated in water in the ventricles of the brain but for the timely and persevering use of leeches; the application of which had the desired effect, and the subject is now the pride and hope of the family, who reside near Cheapside.

How long shall we be pestered with the teasing absurdity that the gum lancet, when used prematurely, actually obstructs the shooting forth of the young teeth? That the intestine irritation, from the presence of worms or adventitious undigested feculent matter, may furnish a resemblance to dentition, is, I conceive, highly probable. I remember a solitary instance occurring on Lambeth Hill,



where the puny child had long laboured under heat, fulness of gums, and fever. I upbraided the parents for not calling in medical aid sooner, and liberated three or four teeth that appeared ready to protrude which gave immediate ease; but the poor child was so exhausted by long continued pain, that it expired on the following day, confessedly owing to the want of promptitude on the part of the parents.

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## DEBILITY.

Extreme debility presented itself in the person of Mary —, ætatis 15, who engaged herself, in the capacity of servant, to a family with whom I have enjoyed the greatest intimacy for twenty-five years: she had been reared up in a system of economy perfectly incompatible with the establishment of a vigorous tone or stamina for future usefulness. Under the treatment adopted nature however rallied, but left a spinal delicacy which seemed to threaten a projected eurvature. The disease was vesicated, which carried off the pain from the adjacent parts. The pain having ceased, the catamenia liberally and regularly flowed; and the young woman is, at this period, after the lapse of two years, as comely and erect a subject as would be wished for a model by the sculptor.

## FAINTING FROM LOSS OF BLOOD

Is an occurrence which brings the party upon the very confines of the invisible and immutable world of immortal "spirits in prison" or in bliss. Sympathising friends are intent upon the varied use of volatiles and alcalies, and the whole routine of absurdities, which, it is well for the unconscious party, are insufficient for the proposed purpose. At the expiration of a given number of feeble pulsations, the divided vessel, by an extraordinary effort of nature, is plugged up so effectually by a life-saving coagulum of blood, which allows the patient time for resuscitation and consciousness. Whilst the surrounding agents, each occupied with a peculiar restorative, proudly, but improperly, assume to themselves a share in the recovery; little thinking that had we but been in possession of the means of rescue prior to the prescribed period assigned by infinite wisdom, so effectually would the preventive stimuli act that a relapse would inevitably be followed by irrecoverable dissolution. Upon what principle are we to account for similar effects under the influence of "mental surpals" is not for finite capacities to determine; as whatever appertains to the brain and nervous energy has been hitherto involved in obscurity, and probably will remain mysterious to the end of time.

I have known the justifiable experiment of the

femoral artery of a dog divided purposely to ascertain the powers of nature in rescuing the fainting animal from death, and the recovery was effected by the spontaneous deposit of an effectual coagulum.

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## REFUSING FEES.

All the liberal professions occasionally repulse the hand offering pecuniary remuneration, and it does them honour.

Dr. James Sims, we all know, was accustomed to give monthly dinners to his medical friends. On one of those occasions, the subject of refusing fees was upon the tapis. It was canvassed at considerable length ; and most of us agreed that such an occasional practice was generally approved of ; however our liberal host dissented most decidedly, on the principle that such a practice was judging by dictation as to the circumstances of the diseased parties. Common courtesy would not admit strong altercation under the circumstances ; but it was too palpable, by each referring to his neighbour with a significant whisper, that the Doctor stood solus in his views ; a situation not unfrequent on some other subjects.

Requesting the aid of Dr. —, in the year 1806, to a family in Queenhithe, I observed his refusal of his rightful fee so frequently as obliged me to remonstrate, by saying I was sure there was

30,000*l.* in the family. "Ah!" said the Doctor, "I wish I had half as much."

Dr. Hugh Smith was called to see a gentleman towards the latter stage of phthisis pulmonalis. About the same period many demands of considerable importance were made upon him, requiring constant attendance, insomuch that he literally forgot to revisit the consumptive patient. A few weeks had elapsed before the name of Mr. — glanced before his eyes on his list. Vexed at himself, he resolved to visit him, and make the best apology in his power. The noble resolution was put in force. The lady was now a widow, and in her weeds. She took the Doctor most affectionately by the hand, thanking him for his polite withdrawalment, knowing that to prescribe for a dying man would be wholly unavailing. The tender obligations of the female precluded the necessity, nay, the possibility, of a reply. The Doctor often used to say, he was more indebted to the widow's tongue for his popularity than his medical merits. Great men are always humble—fools alone are proud.

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## HYDROTHORAX.

Miss T——, ætatis 50, of Bridge-street, a literary lady, consulted me while labouring under oppressed breathing, incessant teasing cough, reported to result from fatiguing exertions, incapacity to stoop,



scanty urinary secretion, with a vibrating pulse. Nature had wisely induced anorexia. The customary diuretics, adding general and liberal dilution, were the preliminary measures. A few purgative pills, composed of Ol. Juniperi and Potassæ Acetas, excited the kidneys into such salutary action that in the space of eight days, the secretion partook of a healthy character in regard to colour, and was in such abundance as to disturb the party thrice in the course of a night. The difficulty of breathing was proportionably diminished, and a favourable termination speedily and perseveringly supervened.

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## EPILEPSY.

In the case of a child, which came under my care, the rubigo was adopted and continued, as the only authorised remedy I felt disposed to rely upon, after hearing the concurrent opinions of the learned brethren in the healing art. At the expiration of the fourth day, having given one triangular mould of it per diem, at intervals, mixed with jelly, a sensible impression was made upon the convulsive and painful paroxysms, rather in degree than frequency; and, at the termination of four days more, scarcely a vestige of epilepsy was traceable. The parents were so absorbed in gratitude, that

they had not language adequate to express the feelings of their minds; and, in fact, I was as much surprised as themselves at the very favourable termination; in which I think an additional proof has been afforded, that “what is most acceptable is most valuable.” For what purpose has nature so liberally thrust on our notice such a vast variety of chalybeate springs upon the face of the earth, but to invite invalids to saunter abroad, to sip and thus invigorate an exhausted or oppressed system?—which is indeed often far superior to swallowing four or six of the apothecary’s draughts per diem.

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## PERIODICAL HEAD-ACHE,

When the result of a deficiency of the depletory measures, during or subsequent to the ardent fever or pyrexia at some former period of life, when the delicate organ of the brain has been deeply implicated, is a matter of unavailing regret to the individual sufferer; where, however, no such unscientific error has been committed; the intermitting disqualification will be in some degree relieved by leeching and cupping; in some, by liberal doses of Cinchona: and, in others, by the incongruous combination of both, as dictated by the severity and the frequency of the seizures. It may also be possibly relieved in many, by patient retirement and time only.

## EXERCISE IN INCIPIENT INDISPOSITION.

Of the advantages of exercise in incipient indisposition, Napoleon, during his many ambitious campaigns, has left on record largely extended proofs. His military law insisted upon the complainant maintaining equal march with the rest of the troops, and it is asserted, that he cured more patients by these preremptory orders than all his professional staff could make their boast of.—Assalini, his favourite surgeon, visited the Medical Society at Bolt-court a few years since, when he confirmed the information. Nature's restorative powers are indeed almost incredible when unincumbered by food under anorexia or inappetency.

While men "fare sumptuously every day" I do not wonder to hear a public speaker, whom all the discerning world admires, say, that "the board slays more than the sword!" I am occasionally in the house of a large establishment where the master is in the habit of boasting of his moderation, modestly affirming that he is contented with fish, flesh, and fowl—boiled, roast, and baked once a day.

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 BLOWS INFLICTED UPON THE HEAD

Are sometimes attended with such appalling results (though with little sensible inconvenience at the



period) as should make us very cautious how we take leave of such cases. Mr. Cline's aphorism is so valuable as to be worthy of Hippocrates himself, viz. that "we can never promise immunity from danger until the sixth week is expired from the date of the injury." For want of observing most rigidly this important circumstance it is feared, in many instances, that either serum, blood, or pus have been penned up, which by seasonable and depletory measures might have been liberated, and the patient rescued from the jaws of the grave. Post mortem dissections have often led scientific practitioners to the most unavailing regret.

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## PARRICIDE.

In the unhappy affair of the family of Mr. G——, by the publication of which the community were put into the possession of facts too solemn to be forgotten, and too profane for imitation; a useful suggestion, however, may be hazarded. The wound inflicted on the bowels was, from the commencement, considered mortal by the medical men at the Borough Hospitals, and the prognosis was awfully correct. Query, Would the introduction of mercurial ptyalism have arrested or prevented the erysipelatous and gangrenous character of the wound which is the usual presage of death? Sometimes we certainly witness such results in



fever, where hope scarcely existed, but yet Hydrargyrus has rescued the patient from impending death. Medical science is marching onwards towards its acmé, and it would not be surprising, if prior to severe and dangerous operations, the previous excitement of ptyalism should be found to diminish in a great measure the danger attendant upon necessary operations with the scientific knife.

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INTUS-SUSCEPTION, VULGO THE ILIAC PASSION,

Is a terrific visitation, but mercifully rare, attended by all the concomitants of ardent fever, with severe and permanent abdominal pain. In the incipient stage it is curable under the use of fomentation, emollients, depletion, vesication, and anodynes, by moderating the peristaltic motion; but under advanced circumstances with stercoraceous vomiting, (the peristaltic action being inverted) is most unmanageable. The inflamed parts, however, sometimes adhere, and if nature's extraordinary powers are unimpeded by cathartics, she will sometimes regenerate newly formed bowel, enveloping the gangrenous one, which will find its exit in a harmless manner. The opinion of the power of the liquid metal Mercury, by its ponderosity, being capable of reinstating the diseased bowel in its original position, has been long and deservedly exploded. Dr. Saunders used to say

of this disease, that it kills the patient in a passion. Post mortem examination will frequently develop intus-susception evidently the result of the peristaltic action subsequently to death, and necessarily without diseased adhesion.

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The venerable and indefatigable Dr. Walshman thinks, that the indiscriminate use of drastic cathartics has given rise in many instances to this unmanageable state of the bowels, and calculates that some hundreds of thousands of infants have been rescued in the hands of nurses, only by the exhibition of a few drops of Dalby's Carminative.

For more than twenty-five years, I have been uniformly in the habit of recommending the same, under the griping pains by which infants are frequently attacked; many refusing the use of empirical medicines, for whom I have been compelled to substitute Mist. Cretae. with a drachm or two of Tinct. Cardamom. Comp. and T. Opii. gt. ij. in ℥jss.

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#### HYDROCEPHALUS,

In the incipient stage, is very manageable under the seasonable and persevering use of local depletion, and the full routine of the antiphlogistic regimen, but when oppressed nature has not been thus relieved and unloaded, a serous deposit is the

inevitable result within the ventricles of the brain. Even in this stage an occasional instance will occur of the complete absorption of the diseased fluid under the use of minute doses of *Elatarium* and *Digitalis*.

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## VARIOLA SUBSEQUENT TO VACCINATION.

Miss C——, of Surry, ætatis 18, who had passed through the process of cow-pock during the infantile period, was recently attacked with pyrexia. The medical confidant intent upon diminishing the severities of the attendant symptoms, used the lancet liberally, (which is in many cases an excellent practice.) A pustular eruption, however, soon developed small pox. Vibices followed, and no energetic efforts could avail to bring the disease to maturity, and the young lady sunk in death—leaving the almost distracted parents childless.

Although Dr. Joseph Adams used to recommend the lancet in the incipient stages of the small pox, I never met with an aged practitioner who vindicated the practice; and indeed their assertion is, that the withdrawment of the vital fluid disables exhausting nature from effecting an adequate reaction; and here a question naturally arises, viz., To what period of time are we able to calculate upon the prophylactic virtues of vaccination over small pox? As we are not yet in full and general possession of the prescribed period, I shall con-

tinue occasionally to test my interesting charge, and recommend others, for satisfaction's sake, to do the same, within their sphere of practice.

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#### ACETIC ACID A PROTECTION IN FEVER.

The effluvia emanating from malignant Scarlatina are not only *sui generis*, but of a character so pungent and pestiferous as occasionally to elude the prophylactic powers of Acetic Acid in a gaseous form; though I can only call to mind a solitary instance of a second subject being infected, in spite of the diligent and persevering use of the steam of Vinegar, and in that case both parties recovered.

In typhus gravior, I cannot recognise an individual instance where this invaluable acid failed of its exempting effect in the severest character of the worst case.

Dr. Lettsom assured me, ten years ago, that he attended a family labouring under Scarlatina of such a degree of malignancy that he persuaded the family to cleanse and white-wash the apartment occupied by the diseased, and shut it up for six weeks, which was accordingly done; (perhaps it would have been better to have added the benefit of ventilation;) notwithstanding which, the first person who slept in the room caught the fever.



## STRATISMUS.

Squinting, when the result of unsubdued inflammation of the brain, is (we all know) almost beyond the reach of the healing art. When it is the consequence of convulsive paroxysms, it is easily accounted for; but when contracted, and that permanently, by temporary imitation, it is as inexplicable to human reasoning as is the existence of a reptile when embedded in the trunk of a tree, or a block of marble.

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## COUGH.

A patient was, for several days, teased by a tickling cough, and a considerable quantity of tasteless mucus expectorated, which afforded no relief. Being invited to feel the pulse, about 9 p. m., I prescribed Oxym. Scill. and Paregoric. à ʒjj. and to retire supperless to bed. An occasional disturbance took place during the night, but not at any time so completely as to interrupt sleep. By breakfast time, the irritation had entirely ceased, without any further medical aid; and all apprehension of demands upon the lancet, vesication, demulcents, &c. consequently vanished.

## VERTIGO OF A MENACING CHARACTER.

E. S——, ætatis 54, had for many years past been subject to slight hemiplegia, always in the right side, accompanied with a consentaneous indiscribable uneasiness under the left side of the frontal bone, occasionally amounting to pain, but which was always relieved by leeches, evidently proving, that the convolutions of his moderate share of brain decussated, and which was attributed by himself to over exertion in his professional duties. The general character of the symptoms partaking more of local disqualification than serious inconvenience, and the period of their returns being mostly before dinner, the hemiplegic subject is rather disposed to place reliance upon temperance and patience than the further use of depletory measures; by which indeed, were they carried to excess, it is doubtful whether the system might not have been rendered exsanguineous before adequate relief could be afforded by such means. He is, therefore, fully disposed to wait the result with Christian hope.

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## SUSPENSION BY THE STIRRUP.

Mr. T——, of Thames-street, ætatis 45, returning home on a Sunday evening over-charged with

wine, slipped off the saddle, when his foot catching in the stirrup, he pitched upon his head, and was dragged by his horse about a hundred yards. On being sent for, I found him covered with blood and dirt; the scalp was nearly separated at the posterior part; the inner surface literally crammed with gravel, which had been scooped up as he was dragged along the road. This extraneous matter was, of course, first removed; the divided parts were then adjusted, and bound down with adhesive plaster. The wound healed with uncommon facility, and left scarcely a scar to remind him of his Sunday excursion.

“The true worshippers” are not always aware of the negative advantages resulting from obeying God, to say nothing of the positive command which the following inspired words convey:

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.  
Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work,  
but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord  
thy God; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

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#### BLEEDING TO DEATH.

“In the midst of life we are in death,” observes the poetical moralist. Being invited to dine with the amiable Mr. Forster of Guy’s Hospital, he narrated an occurrence which took place during the

American war, (a war in which Britain was the aggressor,) whilst he officiated as an army surgeon. One of the officers in the mess-room (mentioning his name) placed a bottle of port wine between his thighs, and in attempting to extract the cork, which appeared to have been driven in with great force, the bottle broke, and a pointed piece of the glass penetrated the femoral artery, by a deep and large incision, from which the blood flowed so copiously that all attempts to staunch it were unavailing, and the unfortunate man died in a few minutes.

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#### THE DEAF AND DUMB.

Deafness and dumbness are necessarily united in one calamity. The latter being inseparable from the former, the recovery of the former is necessarily accompanied by a restoration of the lingual faculties. The benefit of exercising talents upon particular subjects exclusively, in this dense population, is constantly manifest; and who can calculate the advantages accruing to social man by the narration of cases which have been restored to hearing and speech under the management of Mr. Harrison Curtis, the aurist, by preserving a moist meatus externus and a perpetual blister behind the ears, with unlimited patience and perseverance? It gladdens the heart of man to reflect upon the prospective benefits which posterity may



enjoy through the combination of science and talent elicited from so many sources.

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## STRANGULATED HERNIA

May be occasionally liberated under persevering manual compression. About twenty years since, I was called in to reduce a swollen and painful femoral rupture in the person of Mrs. C——, of Aldersgate-street. The resistance to its return was so stubborn, that I was just about proposing the operation, symptoms appearing to justify it, (for it is now conceded that the risk of life is small when the operation is not delayed,) when it suddenly receded into the abdomen.

I met the good old lady very recently in high health, when she entered into conversation very cheerfully about the period of her approaching pilgrimage.

Mr. R. B——, who, from bad nursing and from being allowed to cry to excess when an infant, had been subjected to scrotal ruptures from childhood, was, when about 24 years of age, affected with a rupture which resisted all attempts to reduce it. The medical confidant, about sixty miles distant, who did not feel sufficient confidence in himself to undertake the operation, left the strangulated subject to nature's resources. He had many misgivings as to the result, as proved by midnight vigilance, and visits *tertiâ quâque horâ*; but (*mirabile*

*dictu*) this young man recovered—the sphacelated bowel receded spontaneously, and he is now in *corpore sano*.

About six years ago, Mr. —, of Mansion-house-street, laboured under irreducible hernia. The usual remedies afforded no adequate relief, the incarcerated bowel was, under the hands of that splendid luminary Mr. Lawrence, restored to its original situation. The operation was performed with such complete success, and in such excellent time, that no grade of sphacelation was discernible upon the diseased parts; the danger principally to be feared being from delay.

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#### RHEUMATIC RIGIDITY OF MUSCLES.

Numerous instances have been recorded of great and extraordinary exertions being made, when strongly excited by fear or surprise, by patients who had so long laboured under a rigidity of muscle from rheumatism, as to render them in their own opinion, and in that of their friends, incapable of helping themselves; and whose activity has been thereby permanently as well as unexpectedly established. Whether this recognised fact led the great Mr. John Hunter to reflect upon nature's extraordinary powers upon emergency, is doubtful; but his plan of exerting rigid muscles, against the will of torpid patients, we all know and approve of. Napoleon's peremp-

tory marching orders show what nature is competent to, when her exertions are sternly insisted upon.

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#### RHEUMATISMUS DEGENERATING INTO HECTIC SYMPTOMS.

Mrs. L——, ætatis 26, of Temple-bar, who was vigorous in the extreme, and performed domestic work suited rather to the masculine sex, from being exposed to wet, suddenly contracted rigour, and rheumatic pains about the glutæi muscles, which were removed by sinapisms of Mustard. Ten days elapsed before I was called in, when the ghastly appearance contrasted with the former contour horrified me: the pulse was feeble and frequent, she took Pulv. Antimon. ʒss. Calomel ʒj. at night, which acted as a diaphoretic anodyne, insomuch that she thought I had blended opium. The dose was repeated the following night; and, by the succeeding day, the *tout ensemble* was so favourable by the improved pulse, and general return to vigour and beauty, that it justified me in withdrawing altogether, cautioning her against solid sustenance until the appetite became keen.

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#### POINTING THE TOE.

We can recognise a seaman on horseback, and a tailor on foot; and the affected pointing of the

toes is now become so *outrè* as to excite general risibility. The ancients, who in sculpture closely copied nature, represented the human figure destitute of artificial pointing, and the toes as somewhat separated. Nature has not altered the form of man in this particular, as is sufficiently evident by observing the feet of children before they are confined and distorted by being forced into unnatural-shaped shoes. There are not a less number of muscles appropriated for the toes than the fingers:—and why should we be deprived of half the activity of our feet by succumbing to the tyranny of fashion? We are occasionally surprised by a fractured thigh bone injudiciously united by callus at the period when the patient has been asleep on his back at a time that he should have been better accommodated by partial elevation at the knee, which would have prevented the disqualifying deformity. In fact, nature will have her course; and if we attempt to thwart or confine her, she will invariably retaliate by entailing on us deformity or helplessness.

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[From the *London Medical Repository*, 1821.]

ON THE EFFECTS OF HEPATIC GAS EMANATING FROM  
BURNING COAL.

I was hastily summoned, a few months ago, to a neighbouring family, about bed-time, where I



found a female domestic labouring under a shrill, laborious inspiration, and inability to articulate. I was informed that she had taken up from a good kitchen fire a pan-full of live coal, and that, during the process of warming the bed, a sudden suffocating blast seized her ; I was at a loss for a few seconds how to act. The subject was delicate, and pale, with a clammy perspiration and a feeble pulse, insomuch that venesection was quite out of the question. Having Antimony always with me, I got down some portion in a soluble state, judging, that under the act of vomiting, the lungs would partake of the benefit; to promote which I stimulated the tonsils and uvula, and then endeavoured to relieve her by external cold, and lastly, by binding up the ribs with a six-yard roller tolerably tight, to furnish the affected organs with an augmented tone. However, during this process, she became capable of articulation, but so feebly, that on my inquiry whether she was better, she gently dropt her head, and whispered "Hiss." I am not aware that she derived the slightest advantage from any of the means pursued, and I should suppose that her restoration, which was gradual, was purely effected by nature's efforts; so that, although I cannot pride myself on having accomplished a cure, I can unpresumptuously comfort myself with the reflection that I had not thrown an insuperable barrier in the way of that desirable event. Indeed to a humane mind it is

extremely difficult to decide in such cases how to act, when embarrassed by the anxiety of surrounding parties dutifully solicitous of obtaining relief. A consciousness that he is correctly following up the medical laws, as laid down by the best authorities, ought to place the practitioner in possession for the time being of absolute power; and rather than compromise my judgment I have occasionally withdrawn my services, and left the discontented parties an opportunity to apply where they might feel more implicit confidence. My valuable master, Dr. James Alderson, of Norwich, father to the amiable and justly celebrated Mrs. Opie, whose name will be endeared to me to the latest period of my existence, long since taught me that it was beneath the dignity of a medical man (who holds a rank in the interesting circle of domestic anxieties superior to King, Lords, and Commons, and powerfully claims respect accordingly,) ever to dispute physical subjects with his patients.

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ON THE UNEXPECTED EFFECTS OF THE UNGUENTUM  
ANTIMONII TARTARIZATI.

I was hastily summoned to Mr. M——, of Pater-noster Row, where I found a child, about three years old, writhing in tormenting agony, from the effects of a blister continued considerably too long on the skin. As far as it was possible to obtain an

inspection of the parts, I was apprehensive that sphacelus had commenced; and, with a view of defeating the ill consequence of the extensive inflammation, advised Tinct. Opii. gtt. vi., to be repeated every half hour, if necessary, and with the happiest effect; for by the evening he was tranquil, and continued in that state from the first dose of the anodyne; and the surface of an extensive ulceration assumed a healthy aspect; the healing cicatrization was carried on with great rapidity: As the ulceration was upon the side of the neck, and there appeared a rigidity, I was fearful of a curvature in some of the cervical vertebræ, I recommended leeches to the parts, which acted very copiously, apparently justifying the measure; and in order to secure the advantage already obtained, I ordered the Unguent. Antim. Tart. to be rubbed along the spine, with a view of diverting from an incipient vertebral disease; which might exist.—During this process, much biliary matter was dislodged from the stomach with considerable violence; syncope supervened, and in forty-eight hours death; at a period when none of us were prepared for the event, apparently from an internal hæmorrhage. Now this is a question which I am very anxious to ascertain—What share the absorbents had in this matter? I remember Dr. W. Saunders used to say, many years ago, that the Tart. Antim. rubbed over the epigastric region, would excite nausea and sickness; but with me it



is quite an unique case for the rupture of a blood-vessel under such circumstances, if that really were the fact in this instance.

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ON BLEEDING IN APOPLEXY.

Just now perusing the extract from Dr. Latham "On the Employment of Venesection in Cases of Sudden Seizures, commonly called Fits," I have been led to reflect on several cases of sanguineous apoplexy, which have terminated variously. I concede, with all humility, that the opinions of Dr. Latham ought to be retained among us with almost oracular veneration, when I reflect on his unceasing vigilance, and the extensive opportunities he has enjoyed; and from the period of 1794, during which I have occasionally experienced the advantage of his superior judgment, I submit to the imperative and pleasing duty: yet, on the other hand, when I bear in mind that the life of a fellow-creature is above all price valuable, I cannot help regretting the manner in which he has expressed himself. In the instances in which a restricted bleeding by the lancet, or where means of lesser value have been resorted to and confided in, whilst there has existed a bounding pulse, I feel convinced, that had the depletory method been persisted in *ad deliquium*, I should have witnessed a favourable issue more frequently: for I have long conceived, that as paralysis is the result of



a considerable augmentation of the calibre of the cerebral arteries, probably at the basis, so apoplexy is an actual rupture of those identical vessels; and if the patient, during an apoplectic paroxysm, be blooded *ad deliquium*, he will have the fairest opportunity of recovery by the healing art, under a possibility of the restorative action of the absorbents. Whether the theory be correct or not, I am not prepared to contend for; but this I can affirm—that the last four cases, which I have had under my entire control, have been as unpromising as any, and yet have been restored by depletory measures, carried to an unusual extent.

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A CAUTION IN THE EXTERNAL USE OF HYDRARGYRI  
OXYMURIAS.

Miss L., of the Strand, æt. 5, was brought to me, affected with tinea capitis, communicated at school. Not having witnessed the efficacy, at that period, of the Cupri Sulphas, I advised a few grains of Hydrargyri Oxymurias, rubbed up with pomatum, and applied externally. Several days afterwards I was summoned to see this child, whom I found labouring under the most profuse ptyalism I ever witnessed. My alarm and regret were instantly unspeakable. I requested the important aid of Dr. Babington, my guide and instructor thirty-four years ago: he, with his accustomed urbanity, sympathised with and accompanied me.

The onus of the case was considerably relieved by such a valuable advocate: but the most solemn sequel is, that after a few more days my little interesting patient expired.

While Professor C—— was in the dissecting-room at Guy's, busily separating a muscle, and our conversation was upon animal heat, the subject of great medical controversy at that time, little P—— (afterwards oculist to his late endeared Majesty, bringing in his hand a bullock's eye, at that instant) said humourously, "Sutleffe, I would rather kill twenty patients, and know the cause of their death, than recover one for which I could assign no medical reason." Now, though I do not gravely suppose that the Professor would plead for the full bearings of this sentiment; yet probably it is a happy circumstance, that those very splendid talents which he possesses are exerted in behalf rather of quadrupeds than bipeds.

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#### ON THE PREVENTION OF PLAGUE.

On reading the many elaborate works of our patient and indefatigable countrymen, who deserve all the honours our nation is capable of bestowing upon them, it has appeared to me surprising, that no mention is made of the prophylactic virtues of the Acetic Acid, or the smoke of tobacco, or of the odoriferous spices, or of the disagreeable vapour emanating from animal fat in a fluid state, as

in melting tallow. Now, as far as my experience goes, each of these agents has its decided advantage in checking or extinguishing pestiferous atmospheres; and, during the awful plague in this city, there was good reason for believing, that these agents possessed at least their local advantages. Possibly I may be too sanguine in attributing to them more virtue than they possessed; but I have yet to learn what has been the result of their actual application in times and places of danger.

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## PUERPERAL FEVER.

Although I have more than once in the course of this volume proposed the question "Is Puerperal Fever infectious?" I cannot suffer an opportunity to escape of supporting my opinion upon this important point by the respectable testimony of Dr. G. H. Weatherhead, as extracted from the Appendix to his Essay on Erysipelas, &c. published in 1819, but which did not meet my eye till the present sheet was ready for the press. "Puerperal Fever is," he says, "particularly *infectious*, malignant, and fatal, when it occurs in an hospital;" and, further on, "the state of the system after delivery is sensible in the extreme, and open, therefore, to the impression of every morbid cause." I cannot help noticing here the coincidence of our reflections with respect to the visits of accoucheurs to

their patients. The Doctor says, "I trust these few remarks, even though they may not carry conviction to every reader, are sufficiently important to put attention on the alert, lest the medical man, whose province it is to prevent and remove disease, be not, on the contrary, the unconscious instrument of its propagation." My own sentiments will be found at pages 235 and 450.

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## APOPLEXY.

It is more easy to reflect than to act. The premonitory symptoms in the case of T. Chevalier, Esq., (a pious character, a *rara avis* in the professional world, and an illustrious star of the first magnitude in the medical horizon,) were so distinct and unequivocal, conjoined with increasing obesity, that one cannot help (though regret is now unavailing) expressing surprise that such a deadly foe in ambush was not suspected, and cautionary measures vigorously adopted; but it seems that the recognised proverb must be fulfilled, that, While their patients die *secundum artem*, practitioners generally refuse the use of all means, placing too implicit a reliance upon nature's resources: for instance, the majestic Dr. Pitcairn took not a grain of medicine in his last illness.



## MEASLES:

This easily communicable infection was introduced, by a visitor, into the house of Mr. E——, of Holborn, and an infant at the breast became infected, manifested by the uniform associate catarrhal fever. I received information of the circumstance so early, and gave Calomel gr. iij. instantly that the eruption never appeared, thus carrying off by the bowels the feculent matter peculiar to the disease. The fever abated, dyspnoea moderated, and by the third day (the mercurial catharsis having been kept up) the child required no further medical interference.

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## INCIPIENT SPINAL CURVATURES.

Curvatures of the spine in delicate females (which are too frequently occasioned by tight lacing,) are, if taken during the crescent stage, removed with facility by the simple application of Tartarised Ointment. The appearance of pustular pimples generally ensures a corresponding improvement in the exterior of the patient. But if the application be delayed beyond a certain period, it will fail to make any sensible impression.

## HEMIPLEGIA AND HYDROTHORAX.

Mr. H——, ætatis 62, whose apoplectic tendency had been effectually counteracted by occasional cupping, and diet principally vegetable, thus preserving aperient bowels, was attacked by hemiplegic symptoms, preceded by vertigo, and associated with hydrothorax. Sleep became somewhat comatose: pulse less full and more frequent than usual. He had been a subject of distressing though harmless asthma for many years, and his urine was cloudy, scanty, and high coloured. I prescribed only the diuretic drops, viz. a solution Potassæ Acetatis. Relief was more sudden than I could have anticipated: the kidneys acted in a salutary and copious manner. During the advance to convalescence, an erysipelatous tendency (unknown before) was developed upon one hand, but which yielded upon the persevering application of hot water.

## MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS.

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### PARLIAMENTARY DINNERS.

UNION in associate bodies is the *sine quâ non* for efficiency and success, and is much promoted by the occasional hilarity of the festive board. The animal nature should never be insensible to the delicacies and delights of society ; cynics and hypocrites may affect a mawkish contempt for the pleasures of the table ; but the wise will never esteem them objects of envy. Allowing full credit to the corporeal and sensitive sympathies elicited by Parliamentary dinners, why should the noble and honourable guests intrench upon the imperative duties of the Sabbath ? It has been thought by some that the administration of Mr. Pitt, (a statesman whom I always venerated, and my veneration was increased when I heard pleasing anecdotes of him from his pious architect, Mr. H——,) notwithstanding his gigantic genius, was encumbered by the improper custom of holding political assem-

blies on the Sabbath. Had I a voice in the more elevated circles, I should lift it up on this subject, and say, Can you expect national subordination and prosperity when you, in presumptuous violation of sacred authority, in open defiance of His recorded will, legislate on a day which he says "thou shalt keep holy?" I pray you to consider how you are demoralising your country, and that at its very root. The mystery is that the divine forbearance is so long extended to us, under our high advantages of light and information. Let us fear lest we incur the displeasure of him, who with one blast can sink our navy, or intimidate our army, or depopulate our empire, or curtail our resources, or "mingle a perverse spirit" in the midst of us, by civil commotion.

"Oft has the Lord whole nations blest,  
For his own Church's sake;  
The powers that give his people rest,  
Shall of his care partake.

On kings that reign as David did  
He pours his blessings down,  
Secures their honours to their seed,  
And well supports their crown."—WATTS.

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THE SABBATH.

The sanctity of the Sabbath is sometimes, (though I fear not sufficiently often) preserved in a most praiseworthy manner. A few years ago,



the two deacons of an Independent Church in the country were appointed to visit regularly, with the Rev. T. W——, their very excellent pastor, every member, “without partiality” to the rich. An example I wish our London officers would follow. An attorney residing twelve miles distant from the town alluded to, which is situated about fifty miles to the west, called on the deacons before mentioned, on the Lord’s day, proposing the arrangement of secular affairs. The subject, however, not being of that imperative nature to warrant a deviation from their excellent practice of keeping holy the Sabbath day, the deacons refused to transact the business requested. In vain the attorney urged the disadvantage delay would subject him to, and requested they would not be “righteous over much.” The sacred law could not be dispensed with; but a method was suggested, which was put in practice, without any guilty compromise of principle. At twelve precisely, the Lord’s day terminates; after which period they entered upon the secular duties to the satisfaction of all parties. This unique and wholly unexpected firmness, acted upon the legal gentleman with salutary force. On returning home, he first began to inquire after Christian principles; (such preachers carry the most palpable conviction to men’s consciences.) He perceived they were men of good sound sense, and well calculated to be efficient agents for the work appointed them to perform. Thought led to

prayer and searching the Scriptures, and he is now the principal blessing in the village; has erected a place of worship, and, when deprived of other supplies, occasionally preaches himself. The saints would say,

“He hath loved our nation, and built us a synagogue.”

LUKE vii. 5.

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METROPOLITAN POLICE.

The deficiency of this arm of the civil power was very manifest to me a few years ago, when walking along Brixton causeway, on a fine summer's afternoon, to visit Mr. R——, (whose industry and success had enabled him to rear a stately mansion.) I was suddenly accosted by a strange, uncouth looking figure, with a most forbidding aspect, who solicited alms, urging his keen sense of hunger. Being taken by surprise, I was at first startled; I gave him, however, a few pence, observing to him, that his was a bad trade. “Yes, it is,” said he, “but it is better than doing worse.” The two last words flowed from his lips with such an insulting celerity as convinced me that he was too often accustomed to do worse. I resumed the conversation, “My friend, there's a hive for every bee;” and if I had enjoyed the benefit of any society at that moment, I should have added, (a customary phrase with me to all idlers,) “and a rod

for every drone." This would, in the circumstances in which I then stood, have been so manifestly imprudent, that I desisted, and parted with the stranger, who finished the dialogue by repeating the observation, that bad as begging was, it was yet better than doing worse. Upon arriving at my friend's, I said, "R——, there is a bad character upon the road," and was proceeding to relate the circumstances of the meeting, when he interrupted me by exclaiming, "What's that villain there yet?" I then described the person of the sturdy beggar. "O, that's the man, I perceive from your description." I naturally inquired what he had done. "Why, a few mornings ago, I felt disposed to walk to my counting-house after breakfast, having lamed my horse a little, and he accosted me not only on the same spot, but with the same plea, that of hunger; and having a mortal hatred to all beggars, I threatened, if he troubled me with his complaints, I would lay my great stick across his shoulders. He instantly drew out a large elasp-knife, sneeringly asking, "What is your stick worth now?" "Why," said I, "did you not go to the office and give due and correct information?" "I did," he observed, "and the officers knew his person, and his haunt, but refused to interfere." My friend's indignation at this unexpected apathy acquired an uncommon height, when he learned that this vagabond had not sinned fully up to "the price of blood." "But" said R——,

“he may kill me before you’ll take any notice of him,” and left the office with feelings not very honourable to our police.

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THE WEAPONS OF THE CHURCH ARE FAITH AND  
PATIENCE.

A supposed case of casuistry has occasionally been suggested. Should our benevolent rulers so far forget the spirit of their high station as to attack the saints in their persons and property, may they not repel force, *vi et armis*? The proper answer is, undoubtedly, in the negative. The great Exemplar said, “My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight.” So long as the disciples are fairly characterised by the meekness and gentleness of sheep, so long the shepherd of Israel will espouse their cause, and *vice versâ*. If at any time they forsake that inoffensive temper, and degenerate into the ferocity of bears and wolves, he will leave them to be chastised by their own incongruities and heterogeneous absurdities. Furthermore, the Protestants residing about the eastern and southern borders of France thought themselves authorised, many years ago, to repulse force by force, expecting probably that God would sanction them. The consequence, we all know, was not only their disgraceful defeat and discomfiture, but the firmer establishment of that soul-



ruining religion, Popery, which has continued to the present hour. Whereas the Protestants of England (better taught, "for them that honour me," saith God, "will I honour,") yielded up themselves "as sheep appointed for slaughter," and have transmitted holy fragrance throughout our empire to the end of time, and established the reformed religion; to continue also, as we hope and trust, to parallel period.

"The church enjoys her monarch's love,  
Secure against a threatening hour,  
Nor can her firm foundations move,  
Built on his truth, and arm'd with power."--WATTS.

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#### ZEAL TO EXCESS.

When the mind is first disciplined, and imbued with love to revealed truth and some degree of solicitude about deliverance "from the wrath to come," succeeded by that "peace which passeth all understanding," it is necessarily desirous of spreading the "saving health," and usually associates with the interesting band which gratuitously volunteers its new-formed powers to Sunday School teaching. Crowded air, unventilated, quickly undermines the state of the lungs, and thereby the general constitution; and it is to be feared that many have prematurely sunk under such circumstances. I have several times had occasion to remonstrate against this zealous fruit

of the Spirit to excess, and very recently have seen an instance of a person labouring under symptoms decidedly hectic, with considerable purulent expectoration, and a pulse of 128, of whose recovery I entertained at the time considerable doubts, which have since been too fatally verified.

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## JOHANNA SOUTHCOTE.

With all her outrageous nonsense, this woman became subservient to great and unspeakable good in the case of an endeared relative of the author's in Hanover-square, whose attention was excited, in consequence of the delusion, to the Scriptures; and as Saul, when in quest of his father's asses, found a throne, Mrs. M——, (previously a vain daughter of fashion,) found an interest in the revealed "Shiloh, to whom shall the gathering of the people be." Since she was induced to inquire after this creature of an imbecile and diseased imagination many years have elapsed; and she is now educating her children in the faith of revealed truth, whilst her present peace and satisfaction form the most perfect contrast possible to her former vanity and frivolity.

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me.

"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."  
JOHN. V.

## PHRENOLOGY.

This science is called by its professors an amendment upon Physiognomy. The lineaments of the human countenance convey intuitive impressions, which subsequent circumstances tend only to confirm; and multitudes have cause to curse the counsel which persuaded them to abandon their first formed opinions. The inherent feeling excited by a good or bad countenance is of incalculable value in selecting our associates, and in particular where the connexion is prospectively permanent. According to the doctrine of Phrenology, the quantity of brain constitutes the measure of intellectual capacity; but whenever a calf's head reeks upon our board, surrounded by "olive plants," we smile at the phrenologists; as it should seem, by the redundancy of brain possessed by the animal, that the creature was wiser than Solomon. What a pity then to put it out of existence. If the vital organ were weighed, I would venture that our facetious financier, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, could not boast of such an ample stock. It is true that Dr. Parr possessed an unusual quantity, and so did Mr. Fox; but be it not forgotten that in Professor Porson's head a very small proportion of brain was found upon dissection, and in the head of the intellectually gigantic Mr. Pitt still less! In fact,

the science of Phrenology is the ignis fatuus of the day; and is made use of as a literary excuse for exploring the inspired volume by an easy gradation. It is calculated, I fear, to lead its disciples into Materialism; whence we know that the descent into infidelity is too probable. I believe, however, that the whole system will be exploded, as wholly untenable, in the course of a few years. The palpable blunders committed both by Dr. Gall and Dr. Spurzheim appear sufficiently obvious to set the question finally at rest. "They have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?" Jer. viii. 9.

"Let all the heathen writers join,  
To form one perfect book;  
Great God, if once compared with thine,  
How mean their writings look.

Not the most perfect rules they gave  
Could show one sin forgiven,  
Nor lead a step beyond the grave,  
But thine conducts to heaven,"—WATTS.

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MAGISTRATES SHOULD HAVE CLEAN HANDS; OR BURNING  
OUT A PROCURESS.

A house of ill fame had long annoyed the neighbourhood; and, becoming "worse and worse," it was resolved, after much altercation, that this augéan stable should be cleansed. The summary proceedings, usual on such occasions, were unexpectedly opposed; on the part of the inmates, by a



menace, that, if annoyed, they would expose the names of some of their distinguished visitors. This positive threat had such an effect that the legal proceedings were postponed *sine die*, and the impudent wretch of a procuress actually retains undisturbed possession of her filthy stew.

I do not know to what officious wag I am indebted for a message demanding my medical services at a house of ill fame. When I found, however, that it was a hoax, I made a hasty retreat, for character's sake.

Judah the judge said, "Bring the whore forth, and let her be burnt;" when, upon further inquiry, the judge was found to be the father of the illegitimates! GEN. xxxviii.

What says the sweet singer of Israel?

"If I am raised to bear the sword,  
I'll take my counsel from thy word;  
Thy justice and thy heavenly grace  
Shall be the pattern of my ways.

Let wisdom all my actions guide,  
And let my God with me reside;  
No wicked thing shall dwell with me,  
Which may provoke thy jealousy.

I'll search the land, and raise the just  
To posts of honour, wealth, and trust:  
The men that work thy holy will  
Shall be my friends and fav'rites still.

In vain shall sinners hope to rise  
By flattering, or malicious lies:

And, while the innocent I guard,  
The bold offenders sha'n't be spared.

The impious crew (that factious band)  
Shall hide their heads, or quit the land :  
And all that break the public rest,  
Where I have power, shall be suppress."—WATTS.

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“THE SLOTHFUL MAN SAITH THERE IS A LION.”

“What, in Britain? and at liberty?” “Yes.” It is the creature of his imagination; but the effect is as fatal as though it were real. Mr. —, who has occasionally consulted me for twenty-eight years past, and whose habits and associates are of the most disgusting character, cherished a conceit, because forsooth his relatives had, by early rising, unceasing diligence, and remarkable punctuality in payments, accumulated a large fortune, that there was no necessity for his personal exertion. Nothing could have chilled more completely the testamentary intentions which had given him his ample possessions than the perseverance in this evident infatuation. I have frequently been consulted on the subject, and have always given my opinion freely, though at the risk of exciting the irritation of the infatuated being; and, in order to strengthen the argument, that “lightly comes, lightly goes,” a neighbouring character is frequently quoted, who is now beadle of the hall in

which his father accumulated 60,000*l.* which he left to this *dear boy*, who contrived to squander the whole in five years. For his father's sake, he was placed in the present humble office. My patient never had courage nor principle to marry; and is, to the present hour, the most miserable drone that ever tasted honey. His pecuniary affairs have been wisely placed under such arrangements that he can only touch the half-yearly dividend, and the small portion of capital, which would have been multiplied twenty-fold had he been industrious, is in a manner out of his reach. He tells me it makes his head ache if he reads for ten minutes. I never saw any of his writing; but I presume he can make a mark.

When our highly-esteemed ministers are dutifully urging it upon the youngest part of their auditors earnestly to confess Christ in "this evil world," quoting the well-known and emphatic assertion: "I love them that love me, and those that seek me early shall find me." The fear of being exposed to the ridicule of associates or relatives induces them tacitly at least to reply, "There is a lion in the street." Nay, say not so. Is the soul's recovery to God and blessedness to be thus trifled with?

## ALGIERS.

As in the libraries at Constantinople the reputed prophecies stand recorded, that the Turkish empire "will fall by the yellow children, or the children of the yellows," (Russia being the Turkish word for yellow,) so in Algiers a reputed prophecy exists, that "the city of Algiers will be rased by British bombs on a Sunday morning." It could be wished that some other day had been selected for the achievement by the unknown sybil. It is, however, remarkable, if such be the fact, that the very elements of Mahomedan degradation should be fostered in the vitals of the wretched empire, fatally preparing them to become easy victims; and, being Antichrist, they must necessarily be under the curse.

Allowing due honour to Lord Exmouth's extraordinary prowess on a former occasion, many of us felt that more tenderness had been evinced than, from the character of the guilty parties, could be deemed prudent. A more summary proceeding might have terminated the affair in a more effectual manner; but it was like the noble British; who never exulted over a conquered adversary, and who were satisfied to have made an impression upon the fears of the northern African ingrates.



## EXECUTIONS.

Whenever the awful sentence of the law is put in force, we generally read and comment upon the 14th chapter of St. Paul's epistle to the Romans, for our morning's edifying exercise; thence adverting to some of the many advantages which we enjoy from the strong arm of the civil magistracy, and how much indebted we are to that respectable body, in dedicating their needful powers in behalf of the honest and contented portion of the community. Added to this, we have generally to expatiate with delight, and sometimes with rapture, upon the well-known readiness with which our humane king commutes the punishment of death for perpetual imprisonment, thereby affording to the delinquents an opportunity for penitence and prayer, in order that the chief design of life may be answered, namely, in seeking (and necessarily finding) the way to heaven. Under such circumstances, we refer to that passage of Scripture which says, "We have heard that the kings of Israel are merciful kings." And it is a true report; for, on most subjects, *vox populi vox Dei*; but a like report has never reached us from the kings of the east, or of the south. No! the testimony of all travellers tells us, that "the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty."

By the way, it would be humane and politic to give up the victims of the law to the surgical schools. The subjects would be in high condition for dissection, and the varied organs for injection. The natural disgust excited by dissecting a body which has fallen by disease must interfere with that accuracy of observation which should characterise studies having for their object the welfare and recovery of man, who is made, and capable of possessing and exhibiting, the undisputed image of God.

Semlin Aga was an executioner under the Turkish government, at Constantinople; but, obtaining a release from that painful office, he came over to this country, and took up his residence in Norwich, where the gospel reached his ears, and—by the Spirit of truth and grace—his heart. He now associated with my respected relatives and friends of that city; to whom he declared, when unbosoming himself, that such was his horror at having to flay alive culprits appointed by the emperor to undergo that inhuman punishment, that he frequently, from motives of humanity, on arriving at the neck, purposely made a slip, so as actually to divide the carotid artery, by which means he released the poor delinquent from his misery. This convert from the destructive doctrines of Mahomet expired, with a hope in Christ's atoning blood, full of immortality and joy.

“ NO MAN CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS.”

I had to prescribe for a bowel affection in the person of a maiden lady, ætatis 50, whose natural temper was unusually excellent, whose social qualities were of the first order, and whose easy circumstances afforded her every facility in the indulgence of innocent recreations. Against two of her amusements I protested, as exceedingly hostile to her best interests, namely, quadrille and the drama ; the latter, especially ; for it is among the superlatively pestiferous congregations of a theatre “where Satan dwelleth.” It might be expected that, upon such an assault, the garrison would not yield to the summons and surrender ; I, however, awaited the event patiently, but unmoved. She reminded me of the saying of a celebrated preacher, whose doctrine she could not approve of, viz., “ The greater sinner you have been, so much the better.” “ No,” said I, smiling, “ my dear lady, you mistook him, I have no doubt ; such an obnoxious axiom all the churches would reject, with the most decided abhorrence. “ I’ll tell you what he said, and without fear of contradiction : ‘ The greater *sense* you have of your sins, so much the better ;’ and to this the true Christian agrees.” She continued, notwithstanding, to insist that she was correct, because she had never forgotten the impression it made upon her mind. She commenced,

however, reading Dr. Young's works, Hervey's Meditations, &c., with renewed earnestness, and occasionally roamed from her parochial church to where the gospel of Christ was in reality preached. She soon became secretly devotional, and was, throughout the residue of her days, one of the happiest Christians I ever associated with; and frequently acknowledged that, in the midst of all her gaiety, she was a blind slave, and frequently compared her former state of worldly-mindedness with the sweets and satisfactions she derived from the conscious possession of evangelical principles.

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## A ROYAL BOW.

Walking in the neighbourhood of Finsbury-square, a few years ago, my attention was arrested by the rapid erection of good commodious habitations. "Ah," thought I, "'tis not improbable that some of these dwellings may be occupied by persecuted protestants, who may, ere long, find 'no rest for the sole of the foot' in papistical countries. We shall then all learn that 'the man of sin' is incurable; the sentence against whom has gone forth long ago, and it cannot be reversed. We are longing for the day when we shall be called to yield to the divine command: 'Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.'" I paused at the north-west angle of the



Albion chapel. "What finite mind," thought I, "can form an adequate opinion of the value of the work carried on within the precincts of that sanctuary?" The question was easily answered—"None but the infinite, from whom proceedeth 'every good, and every perfect gift.' Peace to the men who rear such incalculably useful buildings, where the pulpit is well occupied! What a reward of grace is in reserve for those whose property has flowed in such consecrated channels!" While I was indulging in these pleasing reflections, a stranger on horseback, with a most engaging smile, put his hand to his mouth, and then to his hat. Being taken so much by surprise, I was completely off my guard, and began to conjecture who the gentleman could be, instead of returning the compliment, for nothing is so cheap and persuasive as civility. The time for this, however, to my unavailing regret, had gone by, and as soon as I observed the trappings of the out-rider, I recognised the noble and manly lineaments of no less a personage than His Royal Highness the Duke of York. Just in this manner, his Royal Father, of truly blessed memory, occasionally indulged us with his presence *in propria personâ*.

## MUTINY AT THE NORE.

The spirit of insubordination which showed itself in our fleet lying off the Nore, demanded of Government the combined exercise of caution and promptitude. The turbulent ebullitions of our revolutionary neighbours exposed us for a time to great danger, and the dignity of Britain was put to a serious test. I well remember the feeling of the religious public on the solemn occasion.\* Our pride and glory were touched in the most delicate part. We had idolized our "wooden walls," and there we were smitten; but "prayer was made without ceasing" by Britain's sons and daughters, and deliverance was as sudden and unlooked for as that of the Apostle himself, (Acts xii.) although certainly by no visibly miraculous interference.

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 SCEPTICISM.

A sceptical professor in the medical world is a heterogeneous monster, circulating unsolicited, and uncandidly, like Solomon's fool, "arrows, firebrands, and death." It is refreshing, however,

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\* The Saints are the best subjects in an empire, as the tribes of Israel were within the walls of Babylon.

to reflect upon the efficacious zeal which some talents have evinced to strangle this hydra in the cradles of our native dwellings. May God, the lover of our youth, grant abundant success!

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## DEATH OF RACHEL BLAND, THE QUAKERESS.

A female of the Society of Friends, unmarried, and advanced in years, appeared to be on the verge of the grave. Her spiritual guides (shutting up the inspired volume) appealed to her uniform meekness, and her commiseration for the poor. Duties, personal and relative, in a very limited sphere were also referred to, and particularly her steady attachment to the principles in which she had been educated, from which she had never swerved in a tittle. Thus poor Rachel was comforted. "They turned away their ears from the truth, and it was by them (judicially) turned to fables." TIM. "They have rejected the word of the Lord, and what wisdom is in them?" asks the Prophet. Of this world's wisdom we all know they are not deficient. They cultivate both mind and matter, intellect and the exterior; but the prince of preachers would ask, "What shall it profit a man though he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Appealing to all Bible students, their testimony would be, (*nemine contradicente*,) that such a close of life is devoutly to be

depreccated. For a rational, responsible, and immortal being to launch into an untried and immutable eternity, insulting the Father of mercies, the Redeemer of the human race, and the Spirit of truth and holiness, as though matters of revelation were unworthy of being the one chief concern—under an affectation of the absence of disease necessarily requiring no interposition of the divinely appointed remedy. “My soul, come not thou into their dangerous secret; mine honour be not thou united.” Leprosy, though scarcely perceptible, requires equally the divine hand for the purposes of restoration, as if the morbid party had become leprous all o’er.

“Great God, create my heart anew,  
And form my spirit pure and true;  
O! make me wise betimes to see  
My danger and my remedy!

Behold I fall before thy face;  
My only refuge is thy grace;  
No outward forms can make me clean,  
The leprosy lies deep within.

Jesus, my God! thy blood alone  
Hath power sufficient to atone;  
Thy blood can make me white as snow;  
No Jewish types could cleanse me so.” WATTS.

#### COVETOUSNESS INFLECTS ITS OWN PUNISHMENT.

Calling on Mrs. —, ætatis 66, of ———, *en passant*, I was surprised to learn that she had



been under the care of Dr. — ; but her language of abuse against the learned Doctor was so overwhelming that I was obliged to interpose. "Ma'am, I can assure you, from the intimate knowledge I have of that physician, his skill is of the first order." "Well, that I am not disposed to dispute with you, but I'll promise I'll never send for him again ; he is so pressing in his services, that although I repeatedly told him I should not need any more of his visits and prescriptions, yet he continued day by day so to pester me, that I was absolutely obliged to be downright rude to him, before I could get completely out of his reach.—I believe he would have taken the last guinea I had in the world." Possibly the old lady felt more than some would, as she was not accustomed to suggest in the most delicate way the inutility of medical services. If practitioners submit themselves to such imputations, I think they have compromised not a little the honour of the profession. I always choose to be beforehand on this important topic, suggesting that by the next day I hope to be able to take my leave : thus my circle generally fear I shall be premature in my withdrawal.

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"MAN TRAPS SET HERE."

My pious friend Mr. C. was driving me a few miles to the south, to see a sick relative, when our

eyes were occasionally caught by this unwarrantable notice, which brought to my remembrance the circumstance, well known in Norwich, which occurred to Thomas B——, Esq., a West Indian proprietor of 20,000*l.* per annum, but, much to his honour, an unqualified enemy to the Slave Trade, in whose concerts I was accustomed to bear an instrumental part. This gentleman paid his addresses to Miss ——, whose brother was so hostile to the connexion as to place that deadly instrument, a man-trap, in such a situation that the young spark could scarcely avoid slipping into it. His leg was so dreadfully lacerated that, in order to prevent mortification, it was necessary to perform amputation. The young lady, who was not to be influenced by her brother's malevolence towards her lover, gave him her hand, and I never witnessed a more affectionate couple in all my life, having had many and long opportunities of forming an opinion on the subject.

Mr. C. observed, "Ah! my good father says, James, the women are the men-traps." "There is a trap in that direction now, not inanimate: having 'escaped like a bird from the hands of the fowler,' I feel disposed to lift up the warning voice. One of the subtle daughters of Eve keeps the school of scandal all the year: Ministers, in particular, being men of much leisure, are an easy prey. The door is shut, and while the quadrupeds move on, the husbandless syren abuses all classes of persons.

Our most religious and gracious King, magistrates, and persons of your own robe will be animadverted upon with no paucity of embellishment; for though nature has deprived her of one sense, she has abundantly supplied the deficiency by the power of imagery, as intuitively, she surmises, suspects, suggests, and to crown the climax, circulates, with the most unblushing effrontery, what no ear has heard, nor eye seen, nor heart could conceive but her own." The old lady's promises (where the pocket is concerned) are not "yea and Amen," but "yea and nay:" (the memory of some females is most conveniently treacherous.) She is not fearful of incurring the charge implied in that proverb which saith, "He that condemneth the just is an abomination to the Lord."

In reference to this eccentric professor, the anecdote of Mr. A— often occurs to my mind. He told me that an old lady had sent for him, by whom he was offered no fee, but who promised to bear him in memory in her will. The facetious and firm A— replied, "I dare say, Ma'am, you have told six or eight medical men the same tale before you sent for me. I have only to say, that whilst I attend you I shall expect so many fees per week, and as for the last proposal I leave that with you."



## VISITING SOCIETIES

Are amongst the excellent establishments of the day, purporting expressly to tread in the steps of our great Exemplar, "who went about doing good." It is not possible to form an accurate conception of the advantages accruing from these labours of Christian love. From the year 1792 to the present period inclusive, I have occasionally given my humble services, and my memory can retrace many delightful instances of good effected in this manner: one in particular, where a female (a fish woman) under domestic visitation was made sensible of her condition as a sinner exposed to danger, and of the value of Christ the only and sufficient Saviour. Her mother was perfectly unmoved at the interesting narration, but her solicitude about her husband was so extreme, that I believe the visitors present will not forget the ardour of her expressions. Another interesting scene of the same kind took place in St. Martin's-le-Grand. A third is also worth notice: The husband, being sick and confined to his bed, sent for the visitor; at whose arrival the door was opened wide enough to admit the hand, it being hoped that that might suffice for the admission of the half-crown (the usual weekly donation) without the poor man being troubled farther. A long altercation took place on the top of the stairs touching the



point; the visitor wisely refusing to leave the money without being able to report, like a faithful steward, concerning its application. His admission was, however, peremptorily refused; but finding that they had every prospect of losing the money, he was at last with reluctance admitted. The visitor reported that the appearance of the man was as "a bear bereaved of her whelps," and he was so sullen that he would give no answer. The visitor, as usual on those occasions, read a portion of Scripture, and after praying took his departure, leaving the half-crown. On the second visit the messenger was received "as an angel of light:" the sick man had perused the neglected Bible and began to pray, and the sequel of the history proves the truth of that Scripture, which says, that "God is not unmindful of your work and labour of love."

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PARIS, THE CITY OF BASTARDS.

"Marriage is honourable in all."—HEB.

I have been an observer for many years of the statistical reports *sur la Ville de Paris, et le department de la Seine*, and have always been deeply affected with the acknowledged state of moral pollution in those districts. When I commenced this research it was an appalling fact, that one-third of the births were illegitimate: during

the last four years the result is about one-half, and the latest report is beyond this calculation. It is a vain subterfuge to shelter themselves from British remonstrance under the extent of population included in these authorized statistical accounts : the fact is unquestionable ; living witnesses, returning to our better moralised shores, are unanimous in their testimony of the fact. I presume that the priests and confessors contribute not a little to the rapid increase ; as their religion not only sanctions, but recommends concubinage to an indefinite extent ; it being an aphorism of the Church of Rome, the more ecclesiasties a city contains, the safer that city is ; and whilst the people are content with such “ beggarly clements,” I trust we shall neither envy nor imitate them. A sombre proof is afforded by this circumstance of the love of chastity amongst the sons and daughters of Albion, who can willingly abide in the filthy purlieus of such a “ heated oven.” “ Oh Britain, I love thee well !” What an honour it reflects upon us, that when an illegitimate is probably about to be protruded on a parish, lest the hated stranger should claim parochial residence, a general stir is made ; and if the acknowledged officer be so tardy in his duty as to defeat the object of his general appointment, what universal disgrace is heaped upon him ! No future activity indeed can sufficiently compensate it ; and it most probably terminates by his expulsion from the office, in which

he is supplanted by a more efficient agent. From the very best information I can collect, there appears a coincidence of opinion that nothing short of "a mighty earthquake" can bring France to sobriety and a sense of moral rectitude; and I fear that, as to the adult portion of the community in particular, melioration is altogether hopeless.

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## AN AGED CONVERT.

A poor man, ætatis 68, sent for me on the subject of what we generally append to the acceptation of the phrase—"the breaking up of nature." From his lips I learned the simple and artless account of the important and needful change which had recently been wrought in his mind. His view of sin was, that it was hateful and an infinite evil; of the soul, that it was of more value than the whole world; of Christ, that he was "indeed precious." Although he lamented that so long a portion of his time had been utterly wasted in ignorance and sin, nevertheless joy abounded that he was in the way of peace. His Bible and his aged help-mate were his only companions; his youngest child was more than twenty, over whom he yearned very deeply; but his expostulations (tho' like Lot) appeared "idle tales" to them all. I could not learn what sermon or circumstance—(for all know that, generally speaking, "faith cometh by hearing,")—gave occa-

sion to these new and salutary inquiries. I mentioned the names of all the Evangelists I could remember, both in the established church as well as out of it ; but it appeared that he had only heard the Rev. —, the parochial “ blind guide, ” (one of the 18,000 whom the State patronises and supports,) who was consulted, and was very zealous that he should not be made a dissenter ; and insisted upon it, at his peril, that he should attend no preachers but himself. I perceived that the poor man had made it a point of conscience, having given the earnest minister a promise to that effect. I did not therefore attempt to entangle him in unimportant impediments. I was fully satisfied he had found his way to God, and every subsequent day convinced me that I was not mistaken. His neat apartment was the very gate of Heaven. Towards the close of his pilgrimage, the expiring scene, with its concomitant attendants, evinced “ the blessedness of the meek ” who are “ beautified with salvation.”

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“ Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the Leopard his spots ? then may we also do good, that are accustomed to do evil ? ” JER. xiii. Parabolically, we reply in the affirmative. The devotional life and happy death of a dear boy, E. S., became the occasion of exciting solicitude in an unlearned female, æt. 76, upon the subject of her everlasting safety and peace. When unable to come within the



precincts of the sanctuary, she engaged some one to read to her, not having had the advantage of early instruction. The Scriptures were principally her choice; sacred light gradually dawned upon her mind; and eternal life appeared to her "the one thing needful." A few weeks ago, just prior to an occasional visit I had made in a medical capacity, she had been annoyed by a troublesome Jew boy who had importuned her to purchase some trifle. When the bargain was accomplished, she put into his hand a religious tract, asking him to read it. This led to conversation. All the Jew would recognise was God. She replied: "Christ," adding, "no Heaven without him," this the young Israelite denied. "Why," said I, smiling, "Mrs. W. you can preach the gospel, though you can't read." Ah! well may Cowper say,

"——— every bishop does not know  
That Scripture is the antidote for woe."

How many classical scholars, yea oriental linguists, have not yet attained to the wisdom of this obscure old woman of fourscore and upwards! "My good lady," I said, "I wish we had such a lively preacher in every district." The evidences of conversion are most decided, being characterised by an earnestness cognisable at the early liberation of the enslaved mind.

## RELIGIOUS MELANCHOLY.

A religious melancholic, is a solecism of the highest climax. Throughout the last thirty years of my medical routine though daily occupied with the religious public, I never came in contact with more than one, which was Mr. Cole, of Smithfield. My first acquaintance with this unique character was about eighteen years ago. My services were called for, I believe, on account of a bowel affliction, but his extraordinary physiognomy principally attracted my attention. He was in constant motion, walking backwards and forwards, moaning and sighing, dwelling upon his lost condition, and asserting that there was no mercy for him. On one visit, I recollect, he was shaving himself, which I thought was too great a risk to permit; but Mrs. C—— replied, “That he was accustomed to it.” I inquired “What minister he sat under?” “O! he has not heard a sermon for years.” I suggested as delicately as the question would permit, Whether he had, through infirmity, fallen into any visible sin? “No,” was the immediate answer—“he is the kindest creature to us all, and we are utterly at a loss to explain the cause of his mental pain. We don’t doubt but he’s a subject of grace, and will be happy whenever he dies.” I endeavoured to console him with Scripture promises, but the attack had been so often made,

that he was skilful in parrying off the blessed resources.

Ten years subsequently, I was sent for on the occasion of the breaking up of his constitution, which appeared to have been generally good. His mental faculties had never suffered an eclipse by aberration; he was now quiet in bed, and had experienced no change since my last interview. I turned the curtains aside, which aroused him. I perceived he recognised me, and said, hastily, "'Tis of no use," judging I was about to aim at his consolation. However, now I thought was the time boldly to attack the demon of despondency, by which he was persecuted. So I put myself in a menacing attitude. "Well, Sir, I see you are bad." "O! yes, 'tis of no use;" but I did not choose thus to relinquish my object; but said, "Sir, you are very bad." "O! yes, I shall die." "Well, and what then?" "What then!" replied he; (I shall never forget the lineaments of his countenance, at that moment;) "I shall perish," he added, with deliberate solemnity. Raising my voice, I exclaimed, "Do all the human race perish?" He made no answer, and reclined his head upon the pillow.

Nothing of any consequence afterwards occurred, and on the following day he died. On the last act of respiration, however, the muscles of the face assumed such an expression of gladness as more than compensated all the anxious parties; and with

the same smile imprinted on his countenance he was interred.

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## A HARLOT CONVERTED.

The Rev. John Newton used to say, whether Rahab was an innkeeper or a harlot he could not venture to decide in the circle of warm disputants, (although his persuasion was of the latter,) but this he could safely affirm, without the fear of contradiction, that after her conversion, she was not an impure character.

I was once in the company of a Borough prostitute, in the society of Christian friends, and heard her artless narrative, whilst detailing, with the sincerest sorrow, the circumstances of her former life, and the amazing condescension of pardoning love, flowing through the merits of Christ. The quotation of the hymn, which often rings in my ears, and heart, more melodiously than the bells of Aaron, I wish never to forget.

“ Jesus sought me, when a stranger  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed his precious blood.”



## DISEASES FREQUENTLY THE PRECURSORS OF SALVATION.

“ Diseases are thy servants, Lord !

They come at thy command.”—WATTS.

Eliud, the hypocritical regicide, said to Eglon, king of Moab, “ I have a message from God unto thee ; and he arose out of his seat, and Eliud took the secreted dagger, and thrust it into his belly,” Judges iii.

The visitations of diseases are often messengers of mercy. The over diligent tradesman, who pursues “ the mammon of unrighteousness ” so ardently as to encroach upon sabbatic exercises, is laid upon a sick bed ; but after a few preliminary inquiries, it is easy to recognise the paternal care of a wise and gracious father, who gently whispers —“ Retire for a while, I have somewhat to say unto thee.” The reply should be, “ Master say on ; ” but a fretful impatience is usually too conspicuous at the commencement. The peevish man perhaps relates, as if his redemption depended upon it, that he was just on the point of completing a most capital order, which promised a favourable return.—When such speeches are addressed to me, I reply, “ Ah ! my dear Sir, we must succumb if God visit you or me, and the reasoning is obvious—we are sinners. Don’t repine. Sampson was most unquestionably a better character when confined than when at large.” Tears occasionally flow

under such circumstances, permitting the exercise of hope; but convalescence occasionally throws light upon that passage of Scripture which says, "Your goodness is as a morning cloud, and, as the early dew, it goeth away." We see them in subsequent stages, blending their sympathies rather with the readers of "the folio sheet" (the daily paper) than the lovers of inspiration. We lament over their unwise choice, exclaiming, "it is happened unto them according unto the true Proverb—"The dog is turned to his own vomit again, and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."—

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I was accustomed, several years ago, to sit in the same pew with J. F——, Esq. at public worship; but he "in conference added nothing to me." When I rebuked his levities, his reply was a quotation from Dr. WATTS.

" Religion never was design'd  
To make our pleasures less."

His professional talents being of the first order, his company was duly appreciated. I saw him upon this pinnacle with a mingled sensation of pleasure and fear. Soon afterwards, while passing through Lombard-street, the place of his abode, I observed the street littered with straw. Upon inquiry, I heard that my quondam friend was in the

last stage of typhus fever, and highly delirious. It pleased God however, contrary to the expectations of his anxious friends, to restore him. As soon as it was practicable, I paid a visit to the convalescent, who grasped me in his warm embraces; and, before I could open the lips of congratulation said, "I know, Suttleffe, you had no opinion of my religion, and it is certain that I had none, 'till fever shattered my frame, but I have found God now to be near me, and I purpose devoting my future time most decidedly to his blessed service. The Bible is all I want." The first words I could give full utterance to were, "My friend you are right, and have exactly measured my views of yourself." His character wore well, and I saw him surrounded by royal patronage, without being melted down into the spirit of the world; as platina and gold do not evaporate in the crucible. The apostle assigns the reason.

"Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."

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WE BREAK EVIL TIDINGS TO SURVIVORS GRADUALLY.

This custom partakes so much of tender sympathy, that we are accustomed to give it our unequivocal sanction. To be the bearer of unwelcome intelligence of any kind, but particularly of sudden death, under poignant and peculiar circumstances, is a situation most unenviable. I was once de-



puted upon this very mournful errand, and resolved to imitate the example of the lords in waiting in the palace of David, saying "the child is dead," hoping to hear the parents reply, "I shall go to him;" but in this I was disappointed, I had not weighed the character of the parties; there was wanting the piety of David.

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## LEGISLATION.

To legislate in Britain, where all the subjects are, by nature, "hateful and hating one another," from "the least to the greatest," is no easy task. It requires more than common talent and energy duly to administer with steady justice "terror to the evil doer," and protection to "the quiet in the land." In proportion as constituted authorities depart from revealed guidance, their decisions will be necessarily rendered abortive; be thwarted by heterogeneous contradictions, perplexing the rulers, and injurious to the governed. Those who are placed at the head of a large establishment can sympathise in this feeling, having some experience, from matured conviction, that the Scriptures are the only infallible guides for safety and satisfaction, personally or socially. "Those that honour me will I honour." "Whether it be in a nation or a man only," the compound character of whom is hope and fear. A little colony, where the parties



are daily urged by sanctioned motives "to love and good will," could convey some salutary lessons to larger establishments. In such a community the master, is required to "rule with diligence," the mistress "to guide her house" with "the law of kindness" on her lips; the wife "to obey and submit;" the husband, as a necessary consequence, "to love, for no man ever yet hated his own flesh."

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## A TESTATE ACT

Of an unusual character was performed, about forty years since, in North Wales, by a pious patriarch, with an efficient help-mate and several children. The consecrated dwelling with its appendages were freehold. On the approach of death, (faith in Christ deprived the king of terrors of his sting,) nothing could move him to rescind that law which is of force only when men are dead, viz. that the two youngest children should be executors, predicting, as the good man calmly suggested, that without such an enactment some of the elders would marry, take possession, and render that habitation in which all their satisfactions had hitherto existed, uncomfortable to the younger branches. Solomon says, "The prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself, but the simple passes on and is punished." The elder branched off; one daughter married a pious, benevolent, and wealthy gentleman in Bishopsgate-street, who justly values

her as his own soul; another is an episcopalian preacher of righteousness, of popular talents; and the estimable widowed relict most pleasantly communicates the decision of her endeared partner, adding, that their ancient abode continues to be a delightful receptacle for the unmarried branches of the family.

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#### CAUTION TO EQUESTRIANS.

That the operation of castration is so extremely needful in that noble quadruped, the horse, is a subject of surprise to many, who think that nature's perfect work resents all human interference. In the course, however, of my limited history, I have known two instances where the riders rode on mares, which coming within the notice and attraction of stallions, they broke loose, and leaped upon the mares with such ungovernable impetus as to prevent the riders from dismounting, and bit the neck with such severity as to inflict wounds which were finally fatal to both chevaliers.

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#### FEMALE EQUESTRIANISM.

A female on horseback is, perhaps from its novelty, a very imposing spectacle—attracting the universal attention of the most busy in our immense metropolitan population. I always follow the ex-

ample of the multitude, but mostly associate the pleasure which I experience, on seeing an elegant woman mounted on a fine horse, with painful apprehensions as to the safety of the fair rider. I have, in smaller circles, proposed that females should ride as do the "lords of the creation;" but have never yet made one convert. I cannot see, gravely considering the case, any impropriety whatsoever in it, were it to become the general custom. Where a spirited horse, instinctively proud of his sacred charge, shall, at an unexpected moment, shy to the left, the laws of gravitation will necessarily place the fair rider in extreme danger of falling over the right shoulder of the noble quadruped; and in that case it will be well if the foot be quickly disengaged from the stirrup. My whole pleasure on similar equestrian promenades has been completely destroyed under this painful feeling, and for many years past I have been obliged to forego them altogether.

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NATIONAL CHURCHES.

The erection of edifices for the worship of God is undoubtedly amongst the good deeds of the "powers that be." Praise to constituted authorities, in thus exercising "judgment and justice," is due. The increasing population of our immense city will become dissenters, and the mother "church will be in danger." The drones of apathy sleep so



long in their stalls (one has slept for more than half a century and still snores) that the schismatics have allured the little ones by early instruction and Sabbath privileges, where they have tasted the sweets of that "wisdom which is the principal thing;" yea, have been made acquainted with the religion whose "ways are ways of pleasantness, and all" whose "paths are peace," insomuch, that were originally church-going parents to be interrogated by our angry episcopalian rulers—"Are these your children?" They are our children, and are both dutiful and affectionate; but who made them methodists we cannot tell; they are of sufficient age, let them answer for themselves. "Actions are louder than words," the choice of teachers will determine—possessing a spiritual taste they will "desire the sincere milk of the word," not that they may dispute but "grow thereby,"—they will be "fed with strong meat," in order to aspire after "the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. If our rulers should select pious instead of prophane priests, to supply the new pulpits, we shall rejoice in every erection of such places of worship.

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#### DISSENTING CHURCHES.

The building of places of worship by Dissenters is amongst the best deeds of Christian charity. The thirst for hearing the gospel is so ardent and



diffusive as to render it difficult suitably to meet every demand. I love to see a "begging case," ('tis an indisputable evidence that the pillars of the State are strengthening,) with or without the sanction of the board; I rather prefer the latter, (for tyranny is not restricted to Rome.) Be the denomination what it may it is of no importance, provided the managers preach of the "decease which was accomplished at Jerusalem," probably the dissenting applicant preserves a respectful distance, having learned by experience that many of our London contributors are touchy bustlers; surely it would be more becoming to invite him with the cheerful cordiality—"Come in, thou blessed of the Lord, why standest thou without?" Is he not a pillar in the State? he will be recognised as such when "faith and hope shall cease." What would become of the villagers' souls in those benighted districts where the episcopalian drones join in the chase or the card-parties from summer to winter? "Where no vision is the people perish," says Solomon.

"Great is the Lord our God,  
And let his praise be great;  
He makes his churches his abode,  
His most delightful seat.

These temples of his grace  
How beautiful they stand,  
The honours of our native place  
And bulwarks of our land."

## THE CANDOUR OF SOCINIANS.

A church (falsely so called) of the Unitarian denomination, in a northern direction, requested the ministerial labours of my very excellent friend the Rev. —, whose talents and piety are of a superior order. Surprised at the proposal from such a quarter, hoping, however, (as “charity hopeth all things,”) that it was an indication that the ruling powers had begun to see on what a sandy foundation their edifice of future expectation was built, and in pursuance of such high and animating views arrived like an apostle to meet the supposed improving circumstances of the congregated party; and preached from that suitable passage: “The blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin.” Before he could address them on a second occasion he received a letter inscribed by the inviting party, stating that “they should have no further need of his services, as they had no wish for bloody sermons.”

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 INDIFFERENCE TO RELIGION.

“All are not Israel who are of Israel.”—PAUL.

I had occasionally attended Mr. J— of Newgate-street, under spasmodic asthmatic paroxysms, for the relief of which we know that we are more in-

debted to nature's resources than to medicine. Although he was an active and blustering officer in the church under the pastoral charge of the Rev. J. S., I could never extort from him any symptoms of piety, either by his creed, his temper, or general deportment. The final seizure was in the warm month of August 1808 ; when we had the conjoined talents of Drs. H. and B. The period of dissolution, however, advanced with regular and indisputable gradation ; and the Rev. pastor (some pastors make a point of not being present on these occasions, lest disease may communicate,) prompted by imperative duty, paid unremitting attention. The wife and daughter of the patient, with pious earnestness, intreated he would pay attention to the inquiries and exhortations of their pastoral friend ; but his silent apathy harrowed up all the sensibilities and solitudes of the divine, with those of his weeping wife ; to whose immortal honour I am happy to bear the most cheerful testimony. The mental anguish of the preacher I shall never forget ;---we were with the patient till midnight, when he " died as Abner."

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## OPPOSITION OFTEN BENEFICIAL.

" With good advice make war."—PROVERBS XX.

So depraved is human nature, that a dull monotonous round of peace in the domestic circle is not



without its disadvantages. A necessary collision in sentiments and feelings furnishes a keen zest for the circulation of truth, under a wise, temperate, and affectionate opposition ; nay, I have associated with those who are so convinced of its real value as intentionally to raise objections, in order to elicit warmer truth, while their judgment has been directly opposite to their declared opinion. Had truth no adversaries, she would not be surrounded with such invincible bulwarks as now encompass her. On a larger scale, a nation may be menaced by such vain and presumptuous dictation as may put even Britannia on her mettle, and woe to the continental conspirators if they rouse the lion in good earnest. He may enjoy his rest in his favourite retreat, on the northern isles, and be harmless ; he may crouch, and permit the fox, the deceiver, the sloth, the bigot, and the bankrupt, to sport upon his back, (God send them more correct notions of honour and gratitude ;) yea, they may participate in the warmth of his feelings, and the wealth of his immense resources, to make sport of his gullibility ; and most gratefully write on their continental palaces, “ The folly of John Bull.” All these, and many similar insults will not move a muscle in his majestic brow ; but if he hear the pop-guns of contradiction, and experience a series of persevering insults, his taciturn forbearance will give way to a steady and national protest, which, if unheeded, England’s people will dutifully



march forward, generally exclaiming, with the apostle, "Who shall harm us, if we be followers of that which is good?"—Though Cowper says, "War is a game which kings would never play at were but their subjects wise."

"The name of Britain's God defends  
Better than shields or brazen walls;  
He from his sanctuary sends  
Succour and strength when Zion calls.

In his salvation is our hope;  
And in the name of Israel's God  
Our troops shall lift their banners up,  
Our navies spread their flags abroad.

O may the memory of thy name  
Inspire our armies for the fight!  
Our foes shall fall and die with shame,  
Or quit the field with shameful flight."—WATTS.

"Oh, place me in some heaven-protected isle,  
Where peace, and equity, and freedom smile;  
Where no volcano pours his fiery flood,  
No crested warrior dips his plume in blood;  
Where power secures what industry has won;  
Where to succeed, is not to be undone;  
A land, that distant tyrants hate in vain,  
In Britain's isle—beneath a George's reign!"—COWPER.

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#### THE PARKS THE LUNGS OF THE METROPOLIS.

The sayings of "the wise and prudent" are worthy of honourable transmission. Most of us recol-

lect W. W——, Esq., and his intense assiduity in furnishing the commonalty with Sunday recreations, lest, forsooth, they “should be righteous over much.” Poor soph, he had no knowledge of the subject of religion himself, and understood not against what he was indulging his raillery. The period is rapidly advancing when the Lord’s day will be nationally sanctified; when authorities, domestics, and quadrupeds will enjoy a delightful refreshing sabbath-rest. This peculiar reverence has always been a test of “pure and undefiled religion,” whether it be “to a nation or men only.” Jehovah says, “I have given them my Sabbaths;” no other people upon the face of the earth will duly appreciate them.

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YOUNG LOVERS SHOULD BEWARE OF ROMPING.

Dr. John Clarke, in the years 1791 and 92, was accustomed to narrate a circumstance which occurred under his observation; in which this western luminary assured his pupils (myself included) that he was satisfied the playful parties had no impure intention whatsoever, although the female became pregnant, but yet, under circumstances so slightly imbued with guilt as could scarcely be credited, and lest the imagination suffer pollution, it is judged better to withhold particulars.—And it is upon this principle, deeply to be deplored, that

our spiritual lords permitted minute inquiries to be made of the Italian witnesses; as their filthy and disgusting replies inundated our moral soil, nauseating every mind not lost to purity and delicacy. So great indeed was the pestilential evil, that I doubt much if episcopal labours will ever be sufficient to counteract its ill effects.

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DEMERARA AND MISSIONARY JOHN SMITH.

“Wherein was my faithful martyr who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth,” saith He who holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.

“The noble and the base  
 Into thy pastures leap;  
 The lion and the stupid ass  
 Conspire to vex thy sheep.”

Come, let us join, they cry,  
 To root them from the ground,  
 Till not the name of saints remain,  
 Nor memory shall be found.”

Again—

“In vain the noisy crowd,  
 Like billows fierce and loud,  
 Against thy empire rage and roar.  
 In vain with angry spite  
 The surly nations fight  
 And dash like waves against the shore.

Let floods of nations rage,  
And all their powers engage ;  
Let swelling tides assault the sky ;  
The terrors of thy frown  
Shall beat their madness down :  
Thy throne for ever stands on high.

Thy promises are true,  
Thy grace is ever new ;  
There fix'd thy church shall ne'er remove ;  
Thy saints with holy fear  
Shall in thy courts appear  
And sing thine everlasting love."—WATTS.

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“ GOOD PEOPLE ARE ” NOT “ SCARCE.”

So successful has been the exercise of “immortal principles,” thanks to the spirit and genius of the age in which we live, that the common adage “ Good people are scarce ” is no longer true. About three years ago, I was conversing with Dr. C——, a northern erudite, who had pitched his tent in a more westerly direction, saying, that in his former vicinity he was surrounded by saints, who “ literally swarmed.” “ Ah ! ” replied I, “ why one of your former opposite neighbours, a wealthy saint, gave me a ten-pound note last week for payment, although my bill was only 6*l.* odd. This silenced the Doctor, who is deeply tinged with materialism, but has never from that period to the present complained of the “ excellent of the earth ” in my hearing.



## A MISSIONARY'S WIFE.

The wife of a missionary ought to be endowed with an unusual share of piety, patience, and prudence, and thus qualified they may expect to "win souls" in a two-fold degree—he by the ordinary "preaching of peace, by the blood of sprinkling," she by associating the leaven in the domestic or vicinal regions, and with schooling the lambs of the flock. When Moses embarked for Egypt, as Israel's deliverer, his wife accompanied him part of the journey; but exhibited so bitter a spirit on the matter of the divine ordinance (circumcision) as to convince Moses he should have no helper by her presence; and he actually "sent her back" to her father. It was well he had timely proof of her unsuitableness for that high and important situation, ere he contended with the judicially hardened king of Egypt. Poor Moses would be roughly handled by the tongues of our haughty dames in British Israel.

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## A SOLEMN FAREWELL TO THE RELATIVE CIRCLE.

I well remember the circumstances of Mrs. —, a pious character, whose life had been embittered by the teasing propensity of the partner whom she promised at the altar to take "for better, for worse." Her meekness and patience seemed to add to his

irritation ; which was, through example, too faithfully transmitted to her sons, who, in due season, participated in the ribaldry of their wretch of a father. In process of time, however, the wife was seized with a malady of which she died, leaving this testimony, almost with her expiring lips, to those who had assembled about her peaceful dying bed : “ I have long committed you individually to God, hoping that he might convert your hearts, and show mercy upon your souls ; but henceforth I leave you entirely in the hands of Him who is the judge of all hearts, and to him you must yourselves look, either for his mercy or his justice.”

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## CONTINENTAL SNUFF BOXES.

Every nation possesses its peculiar excellency. Rivalship is out of the question ; but incorporated with many external embellishments we have latent and internal poison and pollution transmitted from that hot-bed of impurity, Paris ; which extends itself even to the snuff boxes which British travellers bring home with them. I could scarcely have believed, had I not been informed by the party himself, that a pious gentleman entering a small shop in Paris to purchase a trinket should be waited upon by a smart female, about 18 years of age, who presented him with a capsule of considerable calibre, and endeavoured, in broken Eng-

lish, to explain its disgusting purposes. My excellent friend Mr. David S——, told me he was so stunned and skocked by the frequency of similar occurrences, as made him repeatedly to blush, and he returned to England with the full conviction, that nothing less than a political earthquake can bring that “*great nation*” to its proper senses.

Those dronish youths who are titillating their impure imaginations by inspecting the shops of petty tobacconists, are not the disciples of Dr. Watts—

“ He guards his eyes, and guards his heart,  
To keep his conscience clear.”

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INSOLVENT DEBTORS.

Those that have “*tipt*” us “*a Redesdale*” will, in due season, be handed over to another tip-staff for summary punishment. Doubtless some unfortunate individuals have a right to the benefit of the act for the relief of insolvent debtors, and have very properly taken it accordingly; but by far the greatest portion have fraudulently availed themselves of it. It is, indeed, in its effect, a legislative enactment that has afforded the most accommodating facility for finished willany. Solomon says, “*Oppression maketh a wise man mad,*” probably adverting to that period of the history of Moses prior

to his courageous abandonment of Pharoah's palace; but the courtiers of our times say that regal munificence possesses irresistible attractions for those who have not "the faith of God's elect." Moses possessed, in extraordinary measure, this divine principle, or it could not have been said of him, that he was "the meekest man in all Israel." When I was asked, by creditors already deprived, I fear, of sixteen millions, to add my signature to a petition to parliament, praying for relief from this legal grievance, I declined giving my signature; and indeed, think, with all due respect for the talents and intentions of the framer and advocates of what is called "The Insolvent Debtors' Act," that it will be said "it had been better" for our empire "had they never been born!" The evil will not have passed away until the present adult generation be swept off.

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## AN INSULT.

I experienced an unexpected attack north of Cheapside, which was offered me in the presence of a large and respectable circle. The master of the house (on all other occasions, before and since, exhibiting the character of urbanity,) related a circumstance which happened in an inland county, where the usual practitioner requested the aid of a "very clever fellow, a neighbouring physician,



who, it was said, could cure almost all diseases in a few hours, if he chose to put forth his talents." In consultation, he asked, (to the surprise of the husband, who had secreted himself to hear the opinion of the doctor concerning his wife,) what were the circumstances of the parties, and whether they could afford to endure a slow and tedious recovery, rather than an expeditious one?

This insulting libel operated as a spark to my native tinder; and I replied, with considerable warmth, that I had associated, in consultations, both with physicians and surgeons ever since the year 1786, and I was ready to make my boast that I had not in a single instance witnessed the slightest tinge of such base and dishonourable cupidity, nor did I believe the reporter himself could present to me a regular practitioner who was capable of protracting the sufferings of a human being, while he possessed at the same time the means of relief. Thus the affair ended. I have heard no more of it, although nine years have elapsed since its occurrence.

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A DREAM REALISED.

Miss Harriet T——, of Tooley-street, several years ago, was so much agitated by a dream as to scream out so violently and so unceasingly that she alarmed the whole household. The impres-

sion being permanent, the anxious parties were solicitous about the cause, and after much entreaty, she said, " She thought she was in a great concourse of people, where many were trodden to death, and herself amongst the number, and that she was unprepared for the event," breaking out in the course of the relation with gusts of anguish. At dinner the poor girl still refused to be comforted, and it was suggested that they should brush off these melancholy whims by taking her to the play, which was agreed upon, and here the dream was too correctly realized ; as, awful to relate, fourteen persons were trodden to death, and Harriet was amongst the number.

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SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS ARE SOMETIMES JUSTIFIABLE.

Passing along the neighbourhood of Lombard-street, my attention was excited by the strange appearance of a dog, whose motions I watched. After a few seconds, a circle of gazers was attracted, to whom I expressed my full conviction that the animal was labouring under the incipient stage of hydrophobia; there existing every evidence which Mr. Cline stated in his lectures as characteristic of that unmanagable disease. No one appeared to acknowledge the poor animal, and as it was uncertain how long it might be before the

passive stage would be superseded by the active, when incalculable mischief might have resulted, I proposed to tie my handkerchief round the neck of the animal, and quickly dispatch him, as the Emperor of the East disposes, by the bowstring, of his Mahometan subjects who have the temerity to peep into his seraglio. I was not reluctant to take the responsibility upon myself, although no man will (unless the occasion be urgent) risk being "drawn over the coals," as we call it, in reference to the threats of the gentlemen of the long robe; but we must not forget the remonstrance, (PROVERBS xxiv.)

"If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain: If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not: doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and shall not he render to every man according to his work?"

Again, in the New Testament, it is asked,

"How much better is a man than a sheep?"

And certainly, in quite as great a proportion, a man is better than a diseased dog!

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PROSTITUTION.

"A whore is a deep ditch," saith Solomon. Concupiscence is indubitably the strongest passion which influences the human temperament, whether

the peculiar structure be athletic, irritable, or leucophlegmatic. As to the pious young king whose heart was so tender and full of compassion as to mourn over the youths of his day, devoid of understanding and requiring the exercise of his admonitory persuasion, who could have predicted that the very preacher, possessing as he did both truth and feeling, should, at a subsequent period, be compelled to publish his own infidelities, and be placed, as an admonition to the end of time? "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Behold the aged penitent exclaiming, "I find more bitter than death the woman whose heart is as snares and nets; and her hands as bands." "How is the gold become dim, how is the most fine gold changed?" What a contrast to the former state of mind, when the richness and purity of bloom was upon the conscience in full flavour and fragrance, compelling him to forewarn the young, that

"Whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent."—PROV. vi.

During my first attendance in the Borough Hospitals, I had to superintend, with the amiable Mr. Forster, a syphilitic case in which the subject was reported to have no one bone untouched by incurable caries. At the close of the sessions, I visited Longbottom's, and was ushered into his large room, thickly studded with human skeletons.—During this interesting promenade, my attention



was suddenly arrested by our quondam patient, whom I instantly recognised, and said "this man formerly lay in such a ward, and such was his name." "You are right, Sir: that is the man I have no doubt." "See, disease has pervaded his bones, from the os frontis to the metatarsus." I wanted no other preacher and teacher until I felt an attachment to the soul-saving truths of the gospel.

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SUNDAY SECULARITIES NEVER PROSPER.

My poor old hair-dresser, who was accustomed to use the razor and scissors on the Sabbath, used to be occasionally saluted on the Monday morning, "Well Charles, how did you spend yesterday: Remember, if you shut yourself out of church, you'll shut yourself out of Heaven!" In process of time he frequented the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Goode, under whose valuable labours he became thoughtful and devotional. He was the most harmless and inoffensive creature imaginable, and his concern about soul affairs soon became a matter of notoriety; for genuine piety affects neither parade nor secrecy, as Mrs. Hannah More says. The neighbours were all surprised, that such a man, who was never seen tipsy, nor known to utter upon any occasion (and there were no paucity of occasions in his domestic circle) a profane oath, should be afraid of coming short of Heaven. I endea-

voured to solve the heathenish paradox, by observing, "that it appeared that God had mercifully smitten the most righteous among them with deep compunction, purposely to stir up their guilty indifference to these all-important subjects." In the midst of his distress, my chosen minister paid him a pastoral visit, quoted several scriptural passages and prayed with and for him. His penitential feelings remained with him through life, and to the closing scene he lamented that he had wasted all his days in vanity and sin, but relied alone on the Great Atonement for acceptance, which hope I doubt not he has long realized.

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"IF THE BLIND LEAD THE BLIND, THEY SHALL BOTH FALL INTO THE DITCH."

My patient, the Rev. Henry Meen, reputed the best Grecian in the city, was an associate at College with Dr. C——C——; from which circumstance an intimacy took place between them. Upon my first interview with his classical friend, he gave full proof that he was not "stuffed with the leaven of Methodism," and was urging my patient to eat a piece of chicken while labouring under lingual sordes, cadaverous countenance, and quick breathing. This being refused, he loudly replied in a College phrase in Greek, that he was "more hipped than diseased;" at which my pa-

tient shook his head, and added, "I shall never be well again." Poh!" exclaimed the Doctor, "you talk of dying, I must think of it first, who am 74, and you, Henry, are but 72." "Fie upon such friendship as this," thought I; "it neither does credit to the head nor the heart." Probably my mental distress at such a thoughtless scene might be discernible in my countenance (for what feeling spectator could be jocose under such circumstances.) The Doctor put his hand upon my shoulder with a trifling familiarity, meaning to invite my concurrence, and said, "Doctor canst thou cure diseases of the mind?" I made no reply; for I could not sanction such unseasonable levity. Our patient expired on the following day, and the Doctor himself in less than six weeks afterwards! Poor triflers!—

"How will ye weather an eternal storm  
Where such expedients fail?"—YOUNG.

"When God's own Son is lifted up,  
A dying world revives:  
The Jew beholds the glorious hope,  
Th' expiring Gentile lives."—WATTS.

#### THE EVIL OF EMIGRATION.

"Dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."—PSALM. xxxvii.

The love of our native land is a universal feeling. Exceptions are rare, and generally the result

of culpability. I never pass through Epping Forest, to an endeared relation's parsonage at Lambourn, without exclaiming, "I wish this waste land were under agricultural tillage by the hands of the numerous hordes of pickpockets and sturdy vagrants with which the metropolis abounds to the discredit of the police." When occasionally absent from home, during the night, I should labour under less annoyance from these marauders; whose interruptions have, at times, compelled me to assume the attitude at least (though not the practice) of a pugilist. The stunted trees of Epping might be converted into useful dwellings; and the sweets of constant employment would soon supersede the necessity of a vigilant taskmaster, so needful to the noviciates. With the purest of motives our benevolent rulers appropriated one million very recently to furnish occupation to a large class of the community. I never could dwell upon it without the liveliest apprehensions as to the impolicy of the plan, lamenting that domestic resources should be overlooked while distant and dangerous regions became so attractive. The prophet Ezekiel says, "They shall have inheritance." Again, "There shall ye give him his inheritance." Again, "They shall not sell of it, neither exchange nor alienate the land." There is something so comprehensive and decisive in the language of inspiration, that it warrants the conclusion that it is alone adequate



to guide the wandering steps of the whole human race, to the end of time.

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“A CERTAIN MAN DREW A BOW AT A VENTURE.”

“———— virescit vulnere virtus.”

I know a surgeon, who had to use the catheter every evening for the last five weeks of the life of a paralytic Pharisee, who resided several years ago in St. Martin's-le-Grand, and whose ignorance he yearned over, when he found that all his hope was founded in his ability to repeat, by heart, all the collects in the Common Prayer. His diligence and good sense were worthy of praise, but he was assured, that unless he found Christ and his atoning blood, he would be disappointed in his hope. As his disorder excluded him from active duties, he was urged to employ his present leisure time for private prayer, without the book, and, above all, to ask for the infallible teachings of the Holy Spirit. After a few days, the dawn of inquiry began to be manifested;—he entertained some doubts whether his former confidence would support him at the approaching hour of death. This was succeeded by deep solicitude, insomuch that his wife, who was one of the “careless women,” expressed her surprise that “so good a husband, who never broke his Maker's commands, should be thus complaining of his sinfulness.” This state of alarm

was of very short duration. It pleased God to set his mind at liberty; he could henceforth

“ Tell to all around,  
What a dear Saviour I have found;  
Point to his redeeming blood,  
And cry, behold the way to God.”

The concluding scene was a picture of heaven upon earth.

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REVELATIO QUAM RATIO : A GRAVE CHARGE.

During my attendance upon Mrs. M——, of Creed-lane, one Monday morning, to take my leave *pro forma*, she astonished me with the account of the following occurrence: “O! Sir, I wish you had been here yesterday morning, the whole neighbourhood was in a roar of laughter: that house,” pointing to the south, “has long borne a bad character. On Saturday evening an old gentleman brought in a young lass,” (the latter, by the way, was the lesser delinquent), “and early on the following morning she contrived to escape without the knowledge of her paramour, and took with her his large bundle, exulting in her unknown prize, and exclaiming she had ‘bilked the old fellow.’ And what do you think it contained? why nothing less than the sacerdotal robes of a dignified clergyman. The poor man, upon the discovery of this loss, could not refrain from uttering his grief and disappoint-

ment before them all; for 'what shall I do?' he observed; she had even taken his sermon with her, and he had engaged to preach it for a public charity, a few miles north west of the metropolis, (I am unwilling to exhibit the name of the place,) where he told his wife and daughters he should sleep." "O! Sir," added Mrs. M——, "what a crying shame!"

It was not possible, for some period after the recital, to compose myself so as to appear sober abroad; and I was obliged to wait until I could get my risible muscles into some order. On my reaching home, we had a second edition of the story. *O tempora! O mores!*

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"A WORD SPOKEN IN SEASON," SAYS SOLOMON,  
"HOW GOOD IT IS!"

I knew a medical practitioner who was applied to by a young man evidently labouring under tuberculated lungs with indubitable evidence of irrecoverable phthisis. He refused to prescribe any medicine, and urged upon him the words of God by the prophet Isaiah, chap. lv.,

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near."

A few weeks subsequent to the interview this medical man was hastily summoned to see a dying patient, and the call was promptly attended to.

On entering the apartment of the emaciated stranger, the latter with a cheerful smile exclaimed, "O, Sir, you are the gentleman I wanted to see. I thought it hard when I called at your house that you refused to give me any stuff, but only said, 'Seek ye the Lord.'" The practitioner now recognised the features of the patient, and recalled to mind the circumstances of his visit; when the dying man resumed, "Those words, Sir, never forsook me. I sought and I have found: yes, found the Lord."

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## HERVEY'S MEDITATIONS.

Whilst travelling in a hackney stage, a row of unfinished dwellings, in a state of decay, presented themselves to view, furnishing the wise and prudent lesson couched in those words, "Sit not down first and count the cost." A chatty female said, "Sir, we call that range of buildings Hervey's Meditations, for Hervey is the name of the gentleman who reared them." My spirit in an instant indignantly kindled at such profanation. Heaven grant, for my chosen associates (those who sing at the eucharistic feast,) that the original "Meditations" were more justly valued.

"Our faith adores thy bleeding love,  
And trusts for life in one that died;  
We hope for heavenly crowns above;  
From a Redeemer crucified.



Let the vain world pronounce it shame,  
And fling their scandals on thy cause;  
We come to boast our Saviour's name,  
And make our triumphs in his cross.

With joy we tell the scoffing age,  
He that was dead has left his tomb,  
He lives above their utmost rage,  
And we are waiting till he come."

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CHRISTIAN CONTRIBUTIONS, NOT FOR CONSOLS, BUT  
FOR CIRCULATION.

For twenty years past, it has been a matter of strange surprise, that so many benevolent institutions, which have for their object the promotion of man's best interest, should hoard up in the public funds the charitable donations of the humane and liberal, and which were expressly intended for wide distribution. Whenever I have borne my feeble protest against such lack of fidelity in our public stewards, I have been ready to blush at the temporising policy by which the parties have been actuated. With all my hearty congratulations on the success of appointed agents, who, I presume, are but little inferior in piety and talents to the apostles themselves, I fear that this proceeding is of the flesh, and the fruit must necessarily be according to the flesh. I hope it will not find its *ultimatum* in the financial treasury.

“THOU SHOULDEST HAVE PUT MY MONEY INTO THE  
BANK.”

Whatsoever a man possesses is unquestionably his own by civil right, but, as a steward, God claims it as his—“my money.” Had this plain precept been more observed in our bustling city, and man been satisfied with a fair compensation, not indulging in unwarrantable speculations, and steering clear of that cupidity which prompts so many to “rise up early” unseasonably, and to “sit up late and to eat the bread of sorrows,” with a view to be prematurely rich, our bankrupt list would not have been so swollen, and much misery would have been avoided. The red-letter days are a sad annoyance to the regular performance of business, and I can assure the lords spiritual that the clerks do not fast on these saints’ days, (unless it be as the Pharisees did, as Mr. J. observes, after dinner,) nay, they curse the stars of St. Simon and St. Jude, for their unaccommodating association. I was recently surprised (having been robbed of forty pounds in notes by a suspicious character) to mark the obstruction afforded in acquiring information on the subject; I protested and exclaimed, that I expected in this establishment to possess every possible facility towards the recovery of such property. It is true I did not intend to prosecute; knowing that life would inevitably have been sacrificed, a circumstance to which I could not

have consented ; but that decision on my part ought not to have stood in the way of a public establishment affording information.

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## THE PERIOD OF DOTAGE.

“ ————— ab hoste doceri.”

It is wisdom in the Americans to recommend early marriages. Dr. Franklin assigns adequate and substantial reasons : the Scriptures exhibit still greater. Those among us who have lived for twenty or thirty years in direct violation of that emphatic assertion which says, “ It is not good for man to be alone ;” those who wait till the passions have been nearly “ burnt out by lawless love” before they begin to think of an helpmate, are not usually blessed with domestic satisfactions of an enviable character. Certainly “ a wise man will order his affairs with discretion ;” but the prophet Isaiah furnishes us with an allusion which in the most comprehensive manner invites persons to marry whilst in their youth. He says, “ As a young man marrieth a virgin,” “ Children of youth” have advantages over those of age. Dotage is characterised by a degree of mental imbecility, a sort of infatuation, reminding us of that Scripture which says—“ Them that honour me, I will honour ; and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.”

“AS IRON SHARPENETH IRON, SO A MAN SHARPENETH  
THE COUNTENANCE OF HIS FRIEND.”

About three years ago, one of my patients, residing in Dowgate, insisted that I should have the pleasure of witnessing his joy, which appeared to be almost unspeakable, and dispatched a hasty messenger about two in the morning. I instantly obeyed the summons: he shook my hands with unexpected energy, and with an expressive countenance, which Wilkie I think could scarcely depict on canvas, distinctly articulated “happy! happy!” I conversed with him and retired. At four I was summoned again for the same purpose, and still the exclamation was “happy! happy!”

About ten years ago a lady in Bread-street requested my attendance about five in the morning, saying that she was dying. The pulse was good, and as there existed no indications of disease, I perceived the case was one of mental anxiety; she appeared upon the confines of despondency. I expounded to her as well as I was able Job. xxxiii., and, after praying by her bedside, retired.

“HER WAYS ARE WAYS OF PLEASANTNESS, AND ALL HER  
PATHS ARE PEACE.”

Mrs. B——, a relative of mine by alliance, whilst in the last stage of phthisis pulmonalis, de-



sired to see her son Richard, prior to her dissolution. He was accordingly sent for, and on his arrival, after a journey of fifty-six miles, he found that she was asleep. The youth had not sat long by her bedside, before she began to sing, in soft but distinct notes,

“ There shall I bathe my weary soul  
In seas of heavenly rest;  
And not a wave of trouble roll  
Across my peaceful breast.”

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“ SET THINE HOUSE IN ORDER.”

This sacred injunction presupposes that the heart has been set in order by “ heaven’s first law,” viz. “ repentance towards God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ:” but it is neglected by some on the absurd superstition of prematurely inviting the king of terrors. A medical man is occasionally placed in a situation of immense importance where the patient has omitted the necessary act of testation till standing, as it were, upon the threshold of the invisible world. A testate act is sometimes performed in such a summary manner that less than half the letters intended for the signature of the expiring party are legible; and, to the honour of the legal proctors at Doctors’ Commons, no difficulty is usually evinced in confirming the same. It is a matter of such facility, that any one may take a pencil and hastily snatch a piece of

paper from the pocket, satisfied that the contents would be duly acknowledged, and acted upon, provided the parties witnessing the signature are credible persons. I had once the pleasure of transferring considerable property to the widow for her sole use during her life-time: and thus prevented serious litigation, as well as expressions of discontent among the younger branches of the family. Whenever I meet the widow, she evinces her gratitude by incontestible expressions.

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## POOR RATES.

Being detained all night at an accouchement, (a case of great domestic solicitude,) in the house of Mr. B——, of Lower Thames-street, our conversation turned upon the difficulties attending the due administration of parochial relief, so as to keep the housekeeper from being needlessly oppressed, and the poor from being insulted. My hospitable host informed me, that in his parish (Billingsgate) they required no rate, inasmuch as there were no claimants. It was agreed, however, at a vestry meeting some time ago, that they should make a rate, of two-pence in the pound. This sum kept accumulating until an old woman claimed. The case was not a very clear one, and she was allowed a guinea a week for some months, when on one occasion she applied in a state of disgusting ine-

briety, and flung back the money, insultingly saying, it was not enough for her. "Why, my friend B——," said I, "how is it? Have you no poor?" "Yes, plenty; but they all work." "I should not," I said, "have expected that the other parishes would have need to come to your's for a moral lesson." It is often thus: "where we expect not we find; and where we expect we find not." This circumstance reminds me of Dr. Lettsom's advice, "Write on all parochial workhouses, *Rewards for Idleness!*"

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## LUNCHING.

Children in high health, whose digestive powers are vigorous, can receive into the stomach a moderate share of solid sustenance, in the day time, every three or four hours, but when sober rules are intrenched upon, either as to quantity or quality, sickness or fever are of necessity the chastising results, best remedied (as instinct will teach us) by an absolute withholding of the cause of the mischief, in the form of food, till oppressed and overcharged nature has time to rally and recruit.

The adult stomach disposes of well-prepared and properly masticated food (taken leisurcly) in six, seven, or eight hours, adapted to the circumstances or habits of the parties.

I decry the custom of Lunching altogether, as injurious to the real purposes of established meals,

exciting some degree of dyspepsia; defeating nature's salutary cravings by tantalization. For more than thirty years, I have, upon digestive principles, abandoned the custom altogether, as inimical, and (fancy at least) I have been at large and in good health while some who insist upon consuming four or five meals per diem were prisoners at home. I wish the faculty would publish an account of the serious number of diseases which result from redundancy, and how few from inanition!

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THE RIGHT OF QUEENS TO GOVERN WRONG.

When a female is in possession of the reins and whip, a simultaneous movement of risible muscles is instantly put in requisition, all judging, and some rudely suggesting, the usurped property of the small-clothes. Man only is intrusted with authority; woman with persuasive influence, which she is generally enabled to use very successfully.

Queen Mary has disgraced the British annals by her acts of faith and deeds of zeal, most piously exerted against the poor anathematised heretics. The governing principle would be still the same, should circumstances favour the trial, (which God forbid.)

Queen Ann, the ultra-episcopalian, with the intention of invading the indisputable rights of conscience and of private judgment, made an Order



in Council which was to be acted upon on the ensuing first of August. Pious dissenting parents, thus menaced concerning the souls of the beloved offspring "which God had graciously given them," made unceasing prayer, (as the saints did at Jerusalem, Damascus, and elsewhere, on the approach of persecuting Saul,) and on that very day, the bloated Queen expired, and the Lords tacitly rescinded the Order in Council.

Intemperate rulers have always found it but "kicking against the pricks," to attempt to encroach upon the divine prerogative of Jehovah, who hath said "all souls are mine."

"God counts the sorrows of his saints,  
 Their groans affect his ears;  
 Thou hast a book for my complaints,  
 A bottle for my tears.  
 When to thy throne I raise my cry,  
 The wicked fear and flee:  
 So swift is prayer to reach the sky—  
 So near is God to me.  
 In Thee, most holy, just, and true,  
 I have reposed my trust,  
 Nor will I fear what man can do—  
 The offspring of the dust."—WATTS.

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#### REFORMERS SHOULD BEGIN AT HOME.

This general observation applies to most characters who run to extremes:—*in medio tutissimus*. Sir F. B—— is an exception: he is as amiable in his retired circle, as he is useful in his poli-

tical one. Returning to Town in an Edmonton stage, from visiting a case of mental aberration, rescued by that despised herb, the Ground Ivy, (*utilissimum sæpe, quod contemnitur*. PHÆD.) with four coach companions as quiet as quakers, towards the southern extremity of the green a sixth got in, whose turbulence exceedingly annoyed the snug party; and my ribs, had they possessed lingual faculties, would have complained of the rude stranger's elbow; but I comforted myself with the blessed assurance, that I should meet with no annoyance at home. Loud complaints flowed from the lips of the stranger, as to the position of the neat dwellings which occasionally met our view; as to the mode of planting trees, hedges, &c.; in short, nothing real or imaginary escaped his severe criticisms, which were mostly accompanied with profane exclamations. Our forbearance was nearly exhausted, before I ventured to remind the stranger of the well-known saying, "Reformers should begin at home." His spirit instantly kindled, as might have been expected, and he said in a very elevated tone, "What do you mean by that, Sir?" accompanying his question with a sort of pugilistic challenge, which was quite out of place as applied to me, as I possess neither mind nor muscle for that defensive art, and especially as we were travelling towards Town with a well dressed and well bred Israelitess, who had not, like the Pharisee of old, fasted twice in the week,

that is, as Mr. J. adds, "after dinner." "Nay," I said, "I appeal to the company if there is not some propriety in the expression." He suddenly drew in his horns, and acknowledged that "he had made use of very uncourteous language in good company, and confessed that with him it was particularly unbecoming, for once he was a flaming professor of religion." This unsolicited and unexpected candour made an impression on my mind, which I believe will be indelible.

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## ADVANTAGES OF SCHOOLS.

A Roman Catholic widow (conscientiously ignorant of the Scriptures under ecclesiastical tyranny) was induced to send her little daughter to the Protestant school in her vicinity, there being no other to make choice of. In process of time the mother asked what progress the scholar had made, and where she had been reading, she replied out of the Gospel of St. John, and opening the book read the latter part of the fifth chapter, arriving at the command, "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me." Power from on high accompanied the words to the parent's heart, inducing her to hear and inquire more about "that way," and finally led her to confess Christ, and abandon Popery,

"Faith cometh by hearing."—ROMANS. X.

## EXCESSIVE STUDY,

When unaccompanied with fatal injury to the delicate operation of the convolutions of the brain, (to say nothing of premature ocular disqualification,) is nevertheless capable of laying a foundation for a misanthropic tendency of a permanent character, engendering disgusting selfishness, or producing an unyielding disputant in the social circle. When we witness (which is too frequent) such results from unceasing application to literary labour, it is not surprising that thoughtless mortals resort to the tavern, where no study is necessary to form the suitable associate.

“————— in medio tutissimus ibis.”

Persons possessed of wisdom know that the regions of mediocrity embrace not only satisfaction, but usefulness. The greatest character that ever honoured our fallen world by his presence—of whom it is said that “he went about doing good,” blended the duties of privacy and society so as not, in the most delicate degree, to encroach upon one another. “Go thou, and do likewise.”



EDWARD GIBBON, ESQ.,

Was accustomed to associate with the wise and learned in Geneva. On one of those occasions, the topic prior to retiring to rest, was, the comparative vigour of each individual's pulse, and, by an impious reasoning, the imaginary distance of that "d—— death." Various were the limits prescribed, and to the Roman philosopher was given the period of fourteen more years. The following morning, Mr. Gibbon not rising as usual, his attendant entered his bed-room, where the proud man lay, as if asleep, but cold in death, having expired apparently without a struggle.

"He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

"He stealeth them away in the night."—JOB.

"When they shall say peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them."—THESSAL.

## MY MOTHER'S EPITAPH.

Several years after my marriage, I took my spouse, and, like Jacob of old, presented "the children whom God had graciously given me" to my mother. The pleasure experienced at the interview was reciprocal; and prior to separation, when I was about to return home, my beloved parent charged me most solemnly that upon her tomb should be inscribed—

“ They that would grow divinely wise,  
Must with His fear begin :  
Our fairest proof of knowledge lies  
In hating every sin.  
To fear Thy power, to trust Thy grace,  
Is our divinest skill ;  
And he’s the wisest of our race  
Who best obeys thy will.”

“ It is remarkable,” said I, “ that my choice and your own should so perfectly harmonize ; for those are the verses I have long since selected for that express purpose.” I well remember Mr. W—— at his first canvass for the representation of Norwich, on the independent interest, calling on my mother, when she said to him, “ You must know, Sir, that I can have no vote,” and interrupting her he rejoined, “ but Ma’am, you have considerable interest.” At a subsequent period, he started on the ministerial side ; now, although every man has an equal right to espouse the cause which appears to him most likely to answer the end intended, yet such vacillation was not relished by the natives of Norwich.

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LIFE INSURANCES.

Provision against prospective difficulties warrants the scriptural injunction, “ The parents ought to lay up for the children.” The accommodating facility afforded by authorized companies, (super-

seding the necessity of persevering industry) was never contemplated by men of inspiration, nor do some think that they would have yielded to them the smallest iöta of sanction.

The situation of England's commanding influence may be, like the vision of Amos, represented by "the basket of summer fruit," exhibiting some propinquity towards decay; the boasted capital of seven millions may find its snug ultimatum in the public treasury, unless the "powers that be" "Break off sins by righteousness, and iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, if it may be a lengthening of tranquillity." DANIEL iv.

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## FAMILY WORSHIP.

The advantages attendant upon family worship are beyond the power of calculation. It unlocks, as the fathers of the Church say, the blessings of the morning, and shuts out the miseries of the night; and, moreover, it binds up the ravellings, which are continually fretting out without it. During my attendance upon the family of Mr. B——, of Newgate-street, this subject engaged our attention, when he related the circumstance of a female cousin, unconcerned about the blessings of salvation, who paid him a visit and participated in the privileges of domestic religion. His soul yearned over her soul before God in such ex-

traordinary earnestness, that he could not but hope it was a token for good, and thus the event proved. She dated her conversion from that visit and exercise of social prayer, and is now "consorting with the disciples;" therefore, "As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all."

This excellent man has a son very correctly treading in the steps of his father, whose son also, whom I brought into the world seventeen years since, exhibits all the pleasing buddings of grace, fulfilling the saying in Israel, that a family-altar kept in good repair is a richer inheritance to be transmitted to children than a "house full of silver and gold." Numb. xxii. 18.

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#### THE RESPONSIBLE AGE.

It is a refreshing feeling to the humane mind, that the current testimony of the "Scriptures of truth" furnish abundant and satisfactory proof, that children in every part of our habitable globe, dying in infancy, have all an undoubted interest in the active and passive obedience of the mediatorial achievements of the Son of God. The lines of demarcation, however, are reserved within the breast of the Most High. It is well said, that "once a parent never without care;" the period of responsibility must indeed vary and bear some proportion to the intellectual faculties and the oppor-



tunities for mental culture afforded the parties. There is a solemn passage of Scripture, (which has stirred up my parental solicitude for more than twenty years,) in reference to the subject: in II. CHRONICLES xxxvi. 5. "Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign, and he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord." Mr. Scott's Commentary, which possesses more of the "mind of the Spirit" than any preceding one, as Andrew Fuller admits, informs us of an error which has crept in by means of some inaccurate amanuensis, and says, it should have been "eighteen years old."

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IMPATIENCE PUNISHED.

Many years since, Mrs. Smith, a pious widow residing in a southerly direction, although abused by her prophane neighbours when in their prosperity, but who were ready when in adversity to avail themselves of her aid, was invited to employ her intercessory pleadings on behalf of Michael —, ætatis 5, who was thought to be on the point of death. She felt a pleasure in recompensing good for evil, and prayed for the child that "if the sickness were unto death," the parents would be reconciled; when the mother, interrupting the petitioner to the throne of Grace, exclaimed, "Mrs. S—, do not pray for the child's death." No notice was taken of the unseasonable interruption; the

boy recovered, contrary to the expectation of all parties, and was hanged that day twenty years for a highway robbery.

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AFFECTATION, PROPERLY PUNISHED.

During the summer a promenading party, who had retired into a confectioner's in Cornhill, were each leisurely taking a refreshing ice-cream, when a sprig of vanity, in the attire of an ultra-dandy came in, and with a bustling and profound air said to the waiter, "blockhead, bring me a glass of concentrated sun-beams." As soon as the party had finished their repast they were quietly retiring from the shop, when the *blockhead* of a waiter demanded of the exquisite five shillings for the glass of sun-beams. The risible museles, which had been held in polite requisition for a while, now broke all customary and courteous bounds. The money was, however, deposited, and the learned stranger was quickly out of sight.

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PUBLIC DINNERS.

During the last thirty years, many pious and patriotic occasions have arisen, which have called forth the ardour of Christian sympathy. We were unwilling to be charged with apathy under such circumstances, and associated with those convivial

assemblies, but the mental discount was so enormous, that we were compelled to abandon the Bacchanalians to themselves, with their multifarious toasts. Professional singers were introduced to enliven the scene, with the view, doubtless, of harmless pleasantry. But so much matter approximating to impiety is mixed up with the proper business of the meeting as to preclude the possibility of continuing to sanction public dinners; and we have withdrawn accordingly. On an occasion of this kind, a very respectable officer of one of our dissenting churches felt the force of that interrogatory, "What dost thou here, Elijah?" The question elicited a decision; and the party, yielding to the Scriptural dictation, found a greater consistency of character in offering up his petition at the prayer meeting, (where fifty assembled weekly on a Monday evening) than in toasting "the prosperity of Fishmongers' Hall."

"Let others choose the men of mirth  
To add a relish to their wine;  
I love the men of heavenly birth,  
Whose creed and language are divine."—WATTS.

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## THE LAW.

The legal department is highly honourable and useful, when restricted to legitimate purposes—to the just distribution of property, the minute ful-



filment of the intentions of the testator, the espousing the cause of a delinquent of doubtful criminality, the detecting the sophistry of interested parties, in concealing the fair view and aspect of a case, when they consider it inimical to them—all such professional labours have, and deserve, the cordial gratitude of the community, and secure a calm conscience; but when the superior attainments of the bar, accompanied by the eloquence which often distinguishes legal practitioners, are engaged in supporting a cause notorious for falsehood, evading, by technical phraseology, the sober bearings of truth; liberating a daring offender, to the manifest injury of the public, by detecting a flaw in the indictment; purposely defeating the salutary intentions of the law, and using every exertion to set Barrabas, the murderer, at liberty—a lawyer, who has been so employed, is not, I think, to be envied, when surrounded by the solemn harbingers of dissolution.

“To turn aside the right of a man before the face  
of the most High; to subvert a man in his cause  
the Lord approveth not.”—LAMENTATIONS.

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AN IMAGINARY DISEASE.

Dr. Haighton used to say, that when visited by females, we are obliged to talk much nonsense. Mr. A——, a star of the first magnitude; possessed a vein of humorous pleasantry which



rendered his company exceedingly attractive, (but over whose infatuated infidelity I have shed many a secret tear,) was relating the incidental occurrence of a circumstance which moved my risibility in an unusual degree. His statement was, that a young bride requested his opinion on a delicate subject, namely that of the emission by her husband, during the hours of sleep, of so much wind from the bowels as to render the situation of his bed-fellow quite disagreeable. "Oh! Ma'am," (great men, Dr. Parr-like, are never at a loss,) he quickly replied, "we have no remedy for such a complaint; you must submit with patience, for the skin of his body is too short, so that when his eyes are shut, his —— opens!" Confounded with such a reply, the blushing bride dared not elevate her eyes, and made her retreat as speedily as possible. It is indeed thought by some, that her majesty herself would not have been received more courteously by the scientific Mr. A——.

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"OUR LAMPS ARE GONE OUT."

This is the lamentable confession of all who have been deceived with a false hope of Heaven, when they have entered "the valley of the shadow of death;" yea, the damps of that region will extinguish all lights that are not the offspring of divine illumination. Many are the instances I have

witnessed of persons about to enter the valley, from whose lips, sealed by ignorance or presumption, not one ray of a well-founded hope was to be gathered. On my return home, I have often had to exclaim, "Well, our friend is gone." "How did he die?" "As Abner died," verily, "as a fool dieth."

"Death is a melancholy day

To those who have no God."—WATTS.

How pleasing the contrast of those of whom it may be said, "Ye have an unction from the Holy One." I have sometimes endeavoured to console the pious bereaved party, by referring to the history of Jonah, who, when excluded from all human observation, enjoyed the salutary compunctions of acceptable repentance. I have thought, while the poor patient has been labouring under delirium, on the borders of death, God may be lodging a favourable impression in the mind by his Spirit. I remember the history of a highwayman, who was shot by a person he had plundered, and the circumstances attending whose death gave rise to the following couplet—

"Who mercy sought, and mercy found,

Between the saddle and the ground."

Of this we are certain, that "with God all things are possible," although I should presume such occurrences are rare. We cannot err by cleaving to that Scripture which saith, "Charity hopeth all things." Safety is alike offered to all that are within

the sacred ark, but the peace of joy varies in individual instances, as from the dawn of day to the glorious setting sun. Some are favoured with such "gracious surprisals as" (to quote Dr. Owen) "have seemed to threaten the 'vessel of mercy,' and, but for overflowing tears, would be too much for retention." I have felt a sacred check whilst lisping somewhat of the love of Jesus to our ruined race, at such seasons. "His name is as ointment poured forth," the odour is most vivifying. It is the very "gate of heaven:" it is, as it were, stepping into the sanctum sanctorum, whilst the beatific inhabitants were exclaiming "Unto him that hath loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood." They only sing the "new song," of redemption.

"Ten thousand thousands are their tongues,  
And all their joys are one."—WATTS.

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#### TRIPPING HORSES.

The law of custom is, on many occasions, diametrically opposed to the law of right. Were that valuable animal, the horse, in possession of lingual faculties, the noble quadrupeds would ask the driver who holds the whip "Why flagellate our sides? We are not criminal. Ask your city paviers, why the stones are placed so far asunder as to entangle our shoes, and consequently cause unavoidable tripping?"



Contracts of most descriptions partake so preposterously of self, (as if the contractor had, Cain-like, said, "Am I my brother's keeper?") that the generous feelings of humane sympathy are almost excluded; but they will, ere long, I trust, be exploded from the social circle as altogether ineligible. The principles of the Gospel are making such rapid progress as to menace the great idol, Self, with annihilation.

"The idols shall be utterly abolished."—ISAIAH.

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#### GOD'S SENSIBLE APPROACHES TO THE SOUL.

"I will manifest myself unto him."

This promise, contained in the fourteenth chapter of St. John, has been fulfilled to the Church throughout every age, and will be so manifested to the end of time. It is the conscious, certain, and permanent possession by the individual of a personal interest in "the pearl of great price," the "one thing needful," the result, not of a heated and misguided imagination, but an emanation from above; equivalent to the gracious donative of a "white stone," and a "new name written within," known only to the favoured and honoured party. Superadded, there are communications called, by Dr. Owen, "gracious surprisals," which he exhorts us highly to value.

"No chariots of Amminadib

The heavenly rapture can describe."—WATTS.



## THE NEGLECTED TAR.

After a period of twenty years' war with most of the civilized portions of the globe, when Britain's prowess had placed her upon a proud eminence, it is scarcely to be credited, that she would have forgotten her chief, her maritime, defence. A few uncertificated bankrupts, furnished with pikes, would accomplish all that the army is requisite for, in case of the landing of a host of envious invaders, which our insular situation renders scarcely probable; but our hardy seamen's services are indispensibly important and valuable. It seems, moreover, from the events of history, that Providence favours this class of persons above the military, inasmuch as most of our actions of conquest are purchased at a ten-fold easier rate at sea than on land; for it is an undisputed fact, that for one thousand lives sacrificed in contests on the former, there are generally ten thousand sacrificed in contests on the latter, to accomplish the same measure of national triumph.

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 THE SPANISH ASSASSIN.

During the period in which the British were engaged in the expulsion of the invading French from the Peninsula, (an act of generosity which we hope will never be repeated,) in one of the visited

towns there occurred the following tragical event. An interesting brunette engaged the affections of two young gentlemen, and it becoming doubtful who would obtain the lovely prize, one of them hired an assassin, (openly resident as a "bravo" for such purposes,) who took the stipulated sum, and was intent upon performing his bloody work, but, prior to an eligible opportunity offering itself, the selected victim called upon the identical bravo to engage his services against the rival lover. The murderer with great sang froid pocketed the second fee; and, at different periods, dispatched both parties, leaving the lady without a suitor. Where the Scriptures are shut out by law there is no proper value set on human life. What a contrast do the examinations before the coroner with sworn witnesses exhibit with us!

"The dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty."—PROVERBS.

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#### THE WISDOM OF INFIDELITY.

As the beloved "Gaius," Andrew Fuller, was accustomed to say with a taunting smile "what wise-acres are our modern infidels! Forsooth they cajole the youngsters of the age with scoffs and blasphemies. 'What!' with an air of surprise, will they say, 'are our souls to be washed white in blood? Are our wounds to be healed by divine

stripes?' and, by a climax from the bottomless pit, 'What! propose life to a dead man?' Oh! how is our moral atmosphere horribly darkened by columns of rolling blackness, emanating from the father of lies, who, though he is himself better informed (not by faith, but by sense) still contrives to keep his children under "strong delusions that they should believe a lie."

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MR. ANDREW FULLER'S ADDRESS TO CHURCH MEMBERS.

That laborious apostle of modern times, Andrew Fuller; was characterised by his caution against allowing a guilty practice to be persisted in which has been ruinous to more souls than Judas, under the mischievous and destructive delusion, that every man has his own "easily besetting sin." One leak, unstopped, will sink a ship. Perhaps some of you, inspecting the attentive multitude with uncommon and grave penetration, are secretly living in acts of uncleanness, or sipping by little and little "strong drinks."

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THE APATHY OF SOME CLERICAL CHARACTERS.

I was in attendance upon an elderly female, a great grandmother, in my vicinity, who, in her expiring moments was anxious, for the first time in her life, about "the benefit of clergy." Un-

willing to throw cold water upon the slightest anxiety after parochial advice, I suggested the propriety of sending for the minister; but it being about sun-set, he was, in snug confabulation with some of his accommodating parishioners, poring over a pack of cards; and tartly replied to the message sent from the dying woman, that he was busy and would call to-morrow. The information of this I obtained at my evening visit. Before retiring to rest, with the superadded remark that this poor woman Mrs. W——, might be dead before the morning, I proposed my own humble services, which were very readily accepted; and the party, supposing a book necessary to offer up acceptable prayers to the Almighty, actually presented me with some historical volume, which, after opening, I closed again, and said, “We would kneel down, and implore a blessing from the Father of mercies, in the name of Jesus Christ.” The old lady expressed herself gratified by my attention. She expired on the following day;

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#### THE CHURCHING OF WOMEN.

This ceremony usually takes place at a very critical period. Dr. Lowder, in the years 1790, 91, and 92, cautioned his pupils, in his obstetric lectures, upon this subject, subjoining observations founded on facts, abundantly instructive.



For the first ten years of my obstetric practice, I was increasingly convinced of the importance of the Doctor's cautionary remarks, and subsequently have not failed to lift up my protest upon the interesting subject, conceiving it dangerous in the extreme that a delicate female, probably after her first accouchement, who has been guarded with every possible attention and care, and from whose apartment every draught of atmospheric air has been cautiously excluded during the space of several weeks, should, at her enlargement, be suddenly exposed (probably in cold weather) to the surrounding damp stone walls of a Church, the chilling influence of which is frequently aggravated by cold air, (say 45 degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer, at least.) Continuing in that situation for half an hour, it is morally impossible but that the party will suffer some inconvenience, viz., the contraction of catarrh at least, and probably, as I have been obliged occasionally to witness, the commencement of a decline, which has bid defiance to all our remedial resources.

In dissenting churches our grateful mothers are not thus exposed; and amongst Episcopalians, I have no scruple in advising a retreat into a warm vestry, or that the service be conducted in as summary a mode as possible.

## MEDICAL.

TYPHUS FEVER. (JUNE 1824.)

I deem no apology necessary for thus introducing, at the end of the Miscellaneous Papers, this case of Typhus, which occurred at the instant that my last sheet was ready for the press.

Anne Turner, ætatis 18, of \*\*, Bow-lane, had laboured under domestic disqualification for ten days before I saw her, when the principal complaint was general pain in the head, which the unwise parties about her had endeavoured to relieve by administering savoury food, the pulse was very feeble, and the tongue furred. I prescribed Pulv. Antimon. ʒss. and Calomel ʒj. which acted as a diaphoretic and as a cathartic once only; bringing away extremely foetid and dark coloured matter. The relief was almost instantaneous, but as the febrile symptoms had retained long and undisturbed possession of the patient, it was not surprising that she relapsed. Unnatural motions, of a character highly offensive, were continually expelled. The head of hair, which was unusually bulky, was removed, not only for the purpose of lessening the cerebral uneasiness, by moistening with spirit, but also to prevent permanently bald patches, which will occasionally result from a neglect of this simple precaution. The powerful dose

which I administered in this case, has singly, in many scores of instances, superseded the necessity of any further medicament, when the febrile cases have not been of long established duration. From the mistaken perverseness of the persons about my patient, I had more ground of apprehension from food than fever, and was obliged to remonstrate by appealing to the example of my own case a few years back, when the judicious and pious Dr. Farre was so kind as to put forth his valuable exertions on my behalf, at which time my sole support for eight days was medicine and pump water. I also alluded to the case of my own child, ten years since, on an attack of Fever, who was supported for six weeks on similar sustenance, and with success. At the expiration of two more days, (pursuing the purging plan, having indubitable and satisfactory evidence that all pestiferous typhoid matter was evacuated,) the salutary purposes were so completely accomplished as to enable me to take my leave in the midst of grateful congratulations, one of the best and most gratifying remunerations to the medical man.

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## THE PILES AND HEAD-ACHE.

If, in some cases of periodical head-ache, arising from inexplicable causes, nature will set up a salutary action by inducing an hemorrhoidal flow, why

not imitate the example taught us by the Gallic practitioners; whose practice (though partaking more of inertness than scientific energy) may be worth consideration; and their application of leeches to the rectum is universally recognised. As Mr. Saunders, the oculist says, "The efforts of nature in disease are seldom stationary; and, even when they fail to accomplish the cure; the correctness of the intention may be easily discerned."



# I N D E X.

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